

Hafa Adai!

NOAA pitching in to review
draft EIS, says Palacios.

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Man allegedly threatens his girl-
friend with gun.

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75¢

Dr. Claassens is back on Rota

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

“Dr. Francois Claassens is back.”
Commonwealth
Healthcare Corp.
chief executive of-
ficer Esther Muña disclosed the good
news that CHCC’s only physician for
the Rota Health Center returned to Rota yesterday.

» Not sure
when he
will return
to work

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig,
family, friends, and Rota Health
Center staff gave Claassen a warm
welcome yesterday afternoon at the
Rota airport.

It has been a month and a half
since Claassens was brutally at-
tacked, allegedly by William Abra-
ham Kapono Mathewson, at his
residence. Claassens was airlifted

to Guam in serious condition and
was initially given just a 20-percent
chance of survival.

“We’re so elated that he’s recov-
ered and he’s back on Rota where he
belongs. We wish him and his family
all the best,” Muña said.

However, there is still no telling
when Claassens will return to work

See BACK on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Health Center physician Dr. Francois Claassens sits in front of the Rota International Airport after receiving a warm welcome from Rota residents, family, Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, and Rota Health Center employees upon his arrival yesterday.



Family finally buries Jack’s remains

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Family members and relatives finally bur-
ied yesterday the remains of 18-year-old
Traina Suda Jack at the Tanapag Ceme-
tery, nearly seven months after she disap-
peared and 16 days after her remains were
found in a jungle near Obyan Beach.

Jack’s parents, two sisters, and grand-
mother went to the Department of Pub-
lic Safety at 8:40am to see her remains,
which were stored in a box. DPS officers
later turned over the box to the family.

The family and some relatives pro-
ceeded to Tanapag Cemetery, where other
relatives, friends, and church members
of Jehovah’s Witnesses joined them for a

Family members and relatives hold a tra-
ditional Chuukese burial for 18-year-old
Traina Suda Jack at the Tanapag Cemetery
yesterday morning. Jack was last seen in
San Antonio on Oct. 22, 2014. Her re-
mains were found in the jungle area near
Obyan Beach last May 11.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

traditional Chuukese burial at 10am.

Jack and her family are members of
Jehovah’s Witnesses.

At the cemetery, the remains were
transferred to a coffin. Jack was buried

See FAMILY on Page 4

MVA: Korea to remain largest source market

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Despite Asiana Airlines’ decision to
reduce its flights to the CNMI to only
once a day starting tomorrow, May 28,
Marianas Visitors Authority executive
director Perry Tenorio is optimistic that
this will not hamper the growing Ko-
rean market.

With the collapse of the Russian
market last year, there are now only
three large source markets contributing
to tourist arrivals in the CNMI: Korea,

See MVA on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

La Trattoria N-1 is
now serving break-
fast at their new Cap-
ital Hill location.

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BUSINESS

‘Pre-loved’ luxury
goods store Blumin
opens at the Paseo
de Marianas.

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ASIA

Taiwan President Ma
Ying-jeou lays out a
plan to ease tensions
in the South China
Sea.

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Local

Judiciary wants to be ready once casino industry takes off

By JOEL D PINAROC
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REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary wants to be ready once developments in the Commonwealth such as casinos and new hotels start operating.

The first casino on Saipan is expected to start operations in about two months.

According to Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, he anticipates more crimes, prostitution, and drugs to also happen once these industries finally take off.

"The court was not part of the equation when it comes to the casino industry," Castro said.

He explained that the courts would have to have the necessary resources, as he anticipates

more people and more businesses going to court.

"We would have to anticipate these things to happen, which means the CNMI courts should have more resources to deal with these cases," Castro added.

These are the reasons why the Judiciary needs more funds, Castro said.

Castro and other members of the Judiciary trooped to Capital Hill last week to request for more budget from the government.

The Judiciary's proposed budget of \$7.7 million is significantly higher than the CNMI government's budget allocation of about \$3 million.

During the hearing, lawmakers hinted that the Judiciary might get only half of its proposed \$7.7 mil-

lion budget for fiscal year 2016.

Castro said the Judiciary will be amenable to "meet halfway" with lawmakers for more allocation.

"Yes, the budget proposal from the government is \$3 million lower than what we are asking," Castro said, adding that the Judiciary would welcome a \$1.5 million addition to the government's proposal. "If our lawmakers can meet us halfway and give us an additional \$1.5 million, we can keep our heads above water."

He earlier emphasized the need for more budget to be used for infrastructure repairs and more personnel. Castro said courthouses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota badly need repairs.

For Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, the Judiciary would just have "to work on that," referring to the possible additional budget.

"We do have a lot of things we want to do to improve the Judiciary system," Naraja said,

mentioning that one project the Judiciary will be looking at is a "problem-solving court."

He said these specialty courts will address specific social issues, including gambling, and a drug court.

"The drug court has been on

our table for a long time," Naraja said, adding that these specialty courts will be established to "anticipate" issues that may arise in the CNMI.

Lawmakers and members of the Judiciary discussed the possibility of adding \$1.5 million to the government's \$3 million proposal, but the talks were not finalized during the hearing.

'I am ready to work with the minority,' assures Demapan

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said he will be "ready to work" with his colleagues once he becomes the Speaker of the House.

The vice speaker wouldn't say that he is confident of getting the post, but said he is willing to work with all of this col-

leagues at the House, even with those who oppose him.

"I guess it's no secret that since the inauguration [in January], there was discussion between the 11 members of the majority for the shared leadership," Demapan said. "We are just trying to make sure that the agreement is still intact."

The "shared leadership" will require current House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind.-Saipan) to resign in January 2016 and Demapan will take over the post.

However, the issue is still contentious, because members of the minority bloc want to have a vote on who is going to lead the House after Deleon Guerrero's resignation.

"I do respect their [minority] opinions, but we do have a democratic system where the numbers do count," Demapan said.

Of his eventual rise to the House speakership, Demapan said, "Anything could still happen."

"But let me just say this, when I do become the Speaker of the House, I will do my best to gain the support of the other members of the House," Demapan said.

He said he knows of the apparent moves to block his speakership bid but declined to comment further.



Demapan

"We move forward and work together so that we address the important things that the CNMI is facing," he said.

Debate

The transition of the House speakership was hotly debated by the two sides during recent House sessions.

In Friday's House session, the House Speaker candidly affirmed that he will be resigning his post come January 2016.

But the House session, which dragged on for more than four hours, failed to resolve several longstanding concerns on the House rules, including the transition of the House leadership.

One sticking point in the proposed House rules is that the current House Speaker will step down—or resign—after a year, and the vice speaker will succeed him.

Minority lawmakers in previous sessions maintained that an election of the next House speaker is the right direction to take. In short, there were not enough votes to pass House Resolution 19-5, which contained the House rules.

As with previous sessions, the majority bloc was not able to muster three fourths of the votes of members to pass the resolution.

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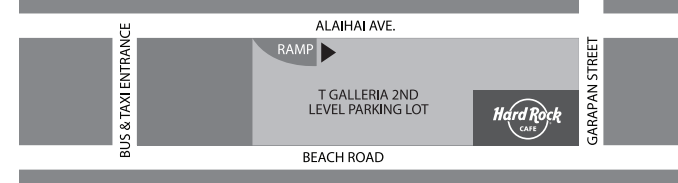
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NOAA pitching in to review draft EIS, says Palacios

BY JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is doing its own review of the draft environmental impact statement on proposed military activities in the CNMI, according to Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan).

He said NOAA is doing its review because part of the draft EIS will impact marine ecosys-

tems in the Commonwealth and in order to ensure that the EIS follows certain regulations.

"NOAA is actually ready and [they're] just consolidating their comments to check if the draft EIS is compliant with federal regulations," Palacios said, adding that lawmakers recently met with NOAA representatives to discuss the draft EIS.

It was not clear what specific areas of the draft EIS the NOAA

is reviewing.

Aside from the federal agency, the CNMI's own Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office are doing independent—albeit limited—reviews of the draft EIS.

The DLNR for instance is reviewing the draft EIS as far as flora and fauna is concerned, while Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan is doing the review with a small group within his office.

The Governor's Office this week announced that it will soon announce the winning bidder to conduct a review of the draft EIS.

Impact

According to Palacios, a "no action" alternative is not on the

table for the military.

"This proposal is going to impact and change every living and non-living things on Tinian and Pagan [and] impact the lives of the CNMI community," Palacios said.

What he fears is that these changes "may not be for the better."

"What we are getting are just promises [from the military]," Palacios said.

He cited documented cases in the Philippines and Hawaii where the military used to have significant presence. He said after the military left, both governments are still struggling with the waste left behind.

The lawmaker, who is chair-

man of the Senate Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, also said the military is not likely to give in to the concession that they repair the Tinian Port.

He noted that the military will not use the port but instead will focus on air transport, such as huge helicopters and C130 military cargo planes.

"This is the reason why they [military] are just focusing on

fixing those runways on Tinian. They won't use the ports because they would not need the ports," he said, adding that Tinian Port has been designated as a "joint use" port.



Palacios

ON LIBDAY, STREET MARKET, TUESDAY MARKET USE OF GARAPAN FISHING BASE:

'Collaboration needed between agencies'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

"We're not shutting down anyone," said Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider, making it clear that the Liberation Day festivities at the Garapan Fishing Base will not affect the Tuesday and Thursday night markets.

The Tuesday Night Market, which sells local produce weekly; the Thursday Street Market, which holds an open night market for both visitors and tourists; and the Liberation Festival will all be using the same public land at the Garapan Fishing Base.

In a meeting between the Saipan Mayor's Office, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Department of Public Lands, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and other agencies last May 21, Hofschneider said DPL Secretary Pete Tenorio recommended collaboration among the agencies to continue all of their organized events.

"We made it clear to DCCA that the Thursday and the Tues-

day night markets will not shut down due to the Liberation festivities from June 27 to Aug. 16. All we asked was to make some room so we can set up what we need to prepare for the Liberation festivities," he said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office also recommended that DCCA move the Thursday Night Market to Coral Tree Avenue between Paseo de Marianas and the two hotels—Fiesta Resort and Spa and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"If vendors from the Thursday and Tuesday night markets want to operate a concession on that period [June 27 to Aug. 16] they are more than welcome to come in and ask and apply for a concession with Skywalker Communications Group," Hofschneider said.

"We told DCCA early on to talk to their concessionaries to start preparing prior to the Liberation festivities," he added.

He conceded, though, that it will be a nightly event compared to the weekly one, so a collaboration can be addressed among agencies.

CDA meets deadline for QC report

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority met an Open Government Act deadline early last week on a requested report on the net effect of the CNMI's qualifying certificate program.

The program has doled out millions of dollars in tax relief to investors since it began in the early 2000s. The certificate stipulates that among others, the businesses reach required amounts of investment and public contributions.

Recently, Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's qualifying certificate was suspended due to a failure to comply with their required annual public contributions.

Speaking before the CDA board last week, qualifying certificate analyst Carline Sablan said, "We had an OGA request deadline yesterday on the report on the net effect of the QC

[program]. We met our deadline [...] and we are looking to share that with the board." She did not disclose further which entity or person made the Open Government Act request.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan explained that CDA is working on the "benefits and costs" of the QC program.

CDA will be producing basically an analysis, he said. The Division of Revenue and Tax provided information for the report, according to the director.

"Now we can basically present a picture of what tax relief was afforded and what investment" was doled out, he said. This would be presented in a future board meeting.

Board chair Diego Songao also asked that CDA report on the status of each QC beneficiary on an individual basis, "whether there is compliance" or not.

Copies of the final report were not available yesterday.

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Park: Luhk sisters' case not a cold one

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park said they are still pursuing the case of the missing Luhk sisters.

Monday marked the fourth year of the mysterious disappearance of Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

"We are actively pursuing that case. We also send messages, emails, and websites throughout the globe. And every time we get a call, email or tip from anywhere in the world, we send agents to that location," Parks.

He emphasized that the FBI is working internationally and has worldwide authority to pursue cases against U.S. persons.

"It's not going unanswered; it's not a cold case. We will give it a 100-percent effort until we

resolve this matter," he added.

Then-10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk were last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo in 2011.

Park also cited that they have the means to investigate

issues fully, such as when, with help from their Guam counterparts, they searched for landfills, jungles, villages, and other areas on Saipan for several months just to find traces of the missing sisters.

Despite the FBI's resources, Park, who has been in the island since 2008, said they also need the help of the community. He wants to reach out to the public and encourage them to speak up if they have any



FBI special agent Haejun Park speaks at the Rotary Club Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. He said they are still actively pursuing pending cases in the FBI including the mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters. Beside him to the left is Rotary president Richard Cody and to the right is president-elect Curtis Dancoe.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Bordallo introduces National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The resolution draws attention to the stigma and disparities that hinder proper treatment and prevention of HIV within the AAPI community and seeks to encourage increased access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment. Health organizations and community groups throughout the country mobilize to educate and reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS in the AAPI community.



Bordallo

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial groups in the United States. AAPIs comprise more

than 50 different ethnic subgroups and communicate in over 100 languages and dialects. This linguistic and cultural diversity makes language access and cultural competency critical factors in HIV/AIDS outreach. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AAPIs are the least likely racial group to be tested for or know their HIV status.

The observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness

Day was established by the Banyan Tree Project, and began as a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of the HIV/AIDS-related stigma and how it contributes to lower testing rates and greater risk-taking behaviors. Additionally, the

work continues with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, which has worked nationally for more than 20 years in helping to strengthen community-based organizations and programs responding to HIV/AIDS among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Representatives Judy Chu, Raul Grijalva, Mike Honda, Barbara Lee, Ted Lieu, Alan Lowenthal, Jim McDermott, Pedro Pierluisi, Amata Radowagen, Charles Rangel, Adam Schiff, Adam Smith, and Mark Takano joined Bordallo as original cosponsors of this resolution.

"National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day honors the memory of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders we have lost to AIDS, and recognizes those who are still living with HIV/

AIDS the United States. Thirty-six percent of HIV diagnoses among AAPI communities progress to AIDS in less than twelve months, and among AAPIs living with HIV/AIDS, 22 percent of Asian Americans and 27 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are unaware they are infected with HIV. Today I introduced a resolution along with several of my colleagues on CAPAC that supports the goals and ideals of National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and draws attention to the stigma and disparities that hinder proper treatment and prevention within our community. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigmas and increase access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment." (Office of the Delegate)

MVA

From Page 1

China, and Japan.

"We anticipate that Korea will continue to grow in terms of visitor arrivals and the number of airlifts from Korea to the CNMI right now. We anticipate that Korea will be the largest source country this fiscal year as well as fiscal year 2016," Tenorio said.

This is a historic feat for Korea, surpassing Japan for the second year in a row. In fiscal year 2014, Korea became the largest source of tourists for the Commonwealth for the first time. By the end of this fiscal year, Korea is projected to surpass Japan once again.

MVA data shows that the CNMI received 135,458 tour-

ists from Korea in 2013.

Ten years ago, total visitor arrivals to the CNMI reached over 500,000. This has since declined following Japan Airlines' pullout from the CNMI. By 2011, tourist arrivals totaled less than 400,000. It started picking up and nearly reached 400,000 in 2012 before passing the 400,000 mark in 2013.

With newly added flights from Korea's low-cost carrier Jeju Air and the launch of two daily flights from Korea, the Korean market peaked in 2014.

Tenorio said that MVA projects a 7-percent increase in tourist arrivals from Korea next fiscal year.

Reviving the Japan market

Tenorio told lawmakers during a budget hearing last week that

the funds the MVA is asking for will be divided among its Japan, Korea, and China offices.

"We have \$1.75 million for each office...We just want to make sure to continue that trend and had internal discussions whether we distribute the money according to the revenues generated by each market. The MVA board has decided that the amount of revenues will be pushed based on our anticipated needs," Tenorio said.

He conceded that Japan is very weak right now, but MVA wants to bolster Japan's presence by earmarking \$1.8 million or \$1.9 million for the Japan office.

"I just want to add that this is our proposal [proposed budget for fiscal year 2016], whatever the Legislature decides to give

MVA. We have an opportunity to review the initial recommendation to the Governor's Office and based on what is allotted to MVA, we will distribute it accordingly based on our needs," Tenorio told lawmakers during Thursday's budget hearing.

Tenorio earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that key to rebuilding the Japan market is to secure new flights, particularly from Osaka and Nagoya, which used to be important source markets for the CNMI.

With the increasing number of low-cost carriers in Japan, MVA is targeting these carriers to launch new services to the CNMI, just as Jeju Air has done in Korea. He said this will be key to rebuilding the Japan market, which used to be the MVA's No. 1 source market.

information about the missing girls or other cases.

"One of the things that I like to also ask of the community is that if there's information out there, if you have information about the missing girls, or any other crime in general, please don't sit down and be quiet about it," Park said.

Park also said that they con-

tinue to pursue and look into other ongoing cases like the missing Chinese individuals and homicides that happened on the island several years back.

"Somebody knows something out there, I guarantee you," he said, "We just need somebody with courage to come forward and tell us, that's all we're asking."

NMC urges that HB 19-004 be split in two

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants a House bill that seeks to create a higher education commission that will sanction charter schools be split in two.

In its written comments on House Bill 19-004, NMC said the issues of a higher education commission and charter schools should be addressed in separate bills to create a more efficient legislative process.

At the public hearing on this bill yesterday, it was revealed that a substitute bill is in the works to address the concerns raised by NMC and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, or NMTI.

NMTI, through HB 19-004, would essentially be made a recipient of public funds,

among others.

In their written comments, college president Dr. Sharon Hart said separating the bill into two would allow the legislative process to run more efficiently.

"In other words, the concerns and reservations expressed for one issue does not have to hold up the other," she wrote.

When House Bill 18-204—which is nearly identical to HB 19-004—was introduced last year, she said, several parties, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, raised concern about the establishment of the Higher Education Commission as written in the bill.

"As such, we ask that any provisions relating to the Higher Education Commission be extracted and placed into a stand alone bill," she wrote.

FAMILY

From Page 1

next to the grave of her grandfather, Sirocho Ikeson Suda.

Jack's father, Sintoso Suda, 46, later told *Saipan Tribune* that somehow they're glad that their daughter has finally been laid to rest.

Suda urged the killer to surrender to authorities and he appealed to DPS to continue their investigation.

Suda also thanked Saipan World Resort for providing the coffin and refreshment, and to his relatives, friends, and members of Jehovah's Witnesses for coming to the funeral.

Suda's wife, Recky, is a staff at Saipan World Resort.

Jack was last seen on Oct. 22, 2014. On May 11 this year, a cattle manager saw the remains

in a jungle area about 15 feet from the shoulder of the road located across the Torres farm near Obyan Beach.

Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola positively identified the remains as that of Jack's, using a photograph that showed her dental features.

Police also recovered from the scene a pair of short pants, bra, and a wristband that has a word "MUSIC" on it. When showed photos of these items, Suda and his other daughter identified the items as belonging to Jack.

Espinola's autopsy did not reveal any type of identifiable trauma on the bones such as fracture, stab, or gunshot. He, however, stated that further microscopic analysis on bone fragments from the skull is needed to determine Jack's cause of death.

BACK

From Page 1

at the Rota Health Center.

"We will be meeting with him this week to discuss his future with CHCC. In the meantime, we are just happy that he's recovered," Muña said.

In the meantime, to address the need for a physician on Rota, CHCC is rotating or temporarily assigning a doctor to the island each week.

Norman Berthume, a licensed nurse practitioner at the Rota Health Center, has taken over most of Claassens' day-to-day duties at the Rota Health Center.

CHCC is also looking for a physician to possibly work with Claassens at the Rota Health Center, once CHCC determines that Claassens is fit to work or if he needs a longer convalescence.

Muna told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview that, prior to the attack on Claassens, a physician was already being interviewed to work with him on Rota. After the incident, CHCC tried to get the physician to come in a little earlier, but up to now there is still no permanent physician on Rota.

The Rota Health Center has access to the ER doctors at CHCC 24/7 who are readily available to assist with patients.

Lawmakers to Commerce: Improve data collection

Lawmakers are urging the Department of Commerce to improve its information and data gathering collection in the CNMI.

Department representatives faced lawmakers in a budget hearing at the House chamber on Capital Hill Tuesday.

Lawmakers also noted the wide disparity between the department's budget request versus the proposed budget from the government. The government is proposing a budget of a little over \$1.4 million for Commerce, while the department is requesting a significantly larger budget of more than \$3 million.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) expressed his concern, particularly with the department's Central Statistics Division, which is essentially in charge of the department's information compilation activities.

Among others, Demapan said

he is "concerned that surveys are not done" and some reports are not released on time. He cited the lack of complete data for the CNMI, which he said is detrimental to the Commonwealth's economy.

"Without data, we cannot move forward," Demapan said.

Other members of the Legislature also noted that the CNMI can no longer depend only on U.S. Census information.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman acknowledged that there are challenges for the CSD, which is why there is a need for additional manpower with specialized skills.

He noted that the department still needs "economics statisticians" who can help the CSD.

"A guru has been with the CSD for a number of years. One of the challenge currently, there is only one person with this spe-

cialized skill," Rabauliman said.

Latest report

The latest report to come out of the Commerce Department is an economic indicators report, which it released last week.

Qualified Filipinos in CNMI urged to register as overseas voters

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine Consul Edgar Auxilian is encouraging Filipinos on Saipan to register as overseas voters at their ongoing mobile consular mission at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Aside from passports and documents processing, the consulate is also open to those who wish to be able to vote for the Philippines' presidential elections next year.

"We are mandated to conduct

The report contained several key indicators including banking activity, imports, and exports, building permits and values, and car sales, among others.

Almost all of the indicators indicate an upward trend.

The report compared figures between 2013 and 2014, and provided a breakdown of the figures on a quarterly basis.

However, reports about the consumer price index, gross domestic product, and a prevailing

wage survey have yet to be released publicly.

Rabauliman earlier said a separate report on the CNMI's consumer price index will be released separately. "Certain data were not readily available from sources, but we are confident such will be provided in the coming quarters," he said. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

overseas registration in preparation for May 2016," Auxilian said.

According to him, they are targeting at least 250 qualified Filipinos to register in their third mission this year. More than 100 have already registered since Sunday.

"We really encourage those who are qualified to register as overseas voters," Auxilian said.

"If you think by May 2016 election you will be here on Saipan, you have to register as an overseas voter so that you

will be entitled to vote," he added.

Filipino citizens who will be 18 years of age by the time of the elections are qualified to register. They will be required to fill a form and show their Philippine passport as proof of their citizenship. The consulate will also get their biometrics.

"Unfortunately, this is our only chance to register qualified overseas voters here. Applicants have to come personally in order for us to get the biometrics," he said.

Overseas voter's registration

started in May last year and will last until Oct. 31.

Auxilian is looking at July and September to hold mobile consular missions in the CNMI to be able to accommodate more possible registrations before the deadline.

During the last Philippine elections, there were about 7,000 registered overseas voters in the CNMI, only about 2,000 of which voted that year. Still, Auxilian said that compared to Guam, the CNMI had a higher voter turnout of 23 percent.

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\$17,995



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STOCK #DW020040
Mileage: 31K

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Mileage: 24K

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STOCK #BPA62697
Mileage: 15K

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Mileage: 4K

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Savor Pacific trade winds at Kili whilst enjoying richly flavored favorites such as Certified Angus Beef® brisket (tinala-style), sliders with tobacco onion, smoked barbecue short ribs and more.

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Man allegedly threatens his girlfriend with gun

Police arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly beating up his girlfriend and threatening her with a handgun at their residence in Dandan on Saturday afternoon.

Manuel Jones Villagomez was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Villagomez was taken to Su-

perior Court yesterday for a bail hearing. A \$6,500 cash bail was initially imposed on the suspect.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety sent a police officer to a house behind Twins Supermarket in Dandan in response to a disturbing the peace report on Saturday

afternoon.

Kintoki said when the officer arrived, he met with the alleged victim, who stated that Villagomez beat her up and threatened her with a .38 double barrel handgun.

The officer requested for backup as the incident involved a gun. Two other officers came

to assist the first officer.

The alleged victim said that Villagomez pointed a gun at her and told her to get out of the house with their two children. She tried to punch him, but he allegedly grabbed her and choked her neck.

When he let her go, she took their youngest daughter and

drove to Twins Supermarket, where she called for police assistance.

The report did not mention whether the gun was recovered.

One officer also found two pots containing a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana in the bushy area near the house. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

US govt moves to postpone trial in case vs Dynasty owner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government asked the federal court yesterday to once again postpone the trial in its criminal case against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

The jury trial is currently set for June 9, 2015, but assistant U.S. attorneys Marivic P. David and Ross K. Naughton asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to put it off by four more weeks.

David and Naughton said the parties are awaiting a final decision from the Department of Justice on a proposed settlement that, if approved, will make the jury trial moot.

The parties are also awaiting the court's decisions on the defendant's four pending motions.

The court's ruling on the motion to dismiss the indictment, which is among the pending motions, will determine whether or not the trial will proceed.

David and Naughton said there remain about 45 days on the "Speedy Trial Act Clock," which they said began running on the day after co-defendant Tim Blyth was arraigned on June 15, 2013.

"A continuance of trial, when the parties have been working to resolve this case, is reasonable," they said.

The trial has already been reset many times at the parties' request because the U.S. Department of Justice's Main Justice in Washington, D.C. has yet to issue a final decision regarding the settlement deal that the U.S. Attorney's Office and Hong Kong Entertainment have agreed to in principle to dismiss the criminal case.

The parties agreed to dismiss the case against Hong Kong Entertainment in exchange for the company's forfeiture to the U.S. government of \$3.02 million, plus other terms and conditions.

The trial was supposed to start last Feb. 9, but the judge reset it to April 7, then June 9, 2015, at the parties' request.

Naughton informed the court last Jan. 30 that although they have agreed in principle to the settlement, they are awaiting the DOJ's final approval of the civil forfeiture amount.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment: one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment also has a notice of forfeiture.

US apprenticeship program in the NMI hard to start with competitive market

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to a lawmaker's query about what the Northern Marianas College has been doing to develop the local workforce, David Attao, dean of Administration and Resource Development, cited the difficulties of creating a U.S. Department of Labor standard apprenticeship program locally without "competitive" wages and salaries comparable to Guam or the U.S. mainland.

Attao was speaking before the House Committee on Education during a hearing on House Bill 19-004, which essentially establishes the Northern Marianas Technical Institute as a recipient of public funds, and was answering questions directed to the college about its role in workforce development.

Attao noted that while the college and NMTI both had "pre-apprenticeship" programs, a U.S. standard program would require higher wages and salaries in the CNMI.

These would be wages between \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, he said.

For example, he said, some workers in Guam have starting rates of \$15 an hour.

Whether it be NMC, NMTI, Latte Training Academy, or another institute, they would all face the same problems with retaining apprenticed workers—

"No matter how good we are, Guam is ready to take them..." he said.

Asking for clarification, committee vice chair Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind.-Saipan) asked Attao if \$40,000 was a "benchmark."

Attao explained that U.S. La-

bor standards take the "higher benchmark," giving the example of a Hawaii electrician being paid \$90,000 a year to that of a CNMI electrician's minimum wage.

"USDOL standards ask [programs] to be competitive in the market, whether we like it or

not," he said.

In April, education partners, including the college and NMTI, submitted a grant proposal to Labor that would help build "the infrastructure, mechanisms, policies, education, training and support systems to

help businesses, employers, and U.S. eligible workers participate in American apprenticeships" in industries and occupations that are currently filled by H-1B and CW visa holders.

The apprenticeship grant is reported to be worth \$5 million.



Thirty Saipan Awaodori Team members, 11 Kinpachi Restaurant staff, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio join in a group photo during the Paseo de Marianas monthly cleanup on May 25 in Garapan.

PDM collects 1,360 lbs of trash

Paseo de Marianas Promoters, Inc. collected a total of 1,360 lbs of trash in the Garapan tourist district during its fifth monthly cleanup on Monday.

Thirty members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and 11 Kinpachi Restaurant staff took part in the cleanup of the Paseo de Marianas and its environs.

PDM Promoters' Sonia Siwa said they started in the morning and ended just before lunch.

"We were not able to do our cleaning on May 16 due to Typhoon Dolphin, and didn't get to do it last Saturday as well so we did it on a Monday since it's a holiday," Siwa said.

"We really appreciate the Marianas Visitors Authority's support for PDM Promoters' program and events," she added.

The cleanup not only involved picking up of trash but also clearing of drainages, sweeping pathways and clearing of vegetation.

PDM's monthly cleanup in Garapan nets an average of 1,000 lbs of trash. *(Jayson Camacho)*

Conservation in the CNMI

What are the most important issues?
What actions can we take?

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Tinian: Monday, June 1, 6:30-8pm

Tinian Elementary School

Saipan: Tuesday, June 2, 6:30-8pm

Multipurpose Room, Susupe

Rota: Thursday, June 4, 6:30-8pm

Sinapalo Elementary School

Or visit www.cnmidfw.com for a 5-minute online survey. Your input will be included in the 2015 CNMI Wildlife Action Plan.

For more information:

www.cnmidfw.com

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liskeclark.cnmidfw@gmail.com



Notice of Availability of the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)



Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508]) and in accordance with Executive Order 12114, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Final EIS/OEIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with military training and testing activities within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area. The MITT EIS/OEIS is the reevaluation and reauthorization of training and testing activities reviewed in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC) EIS/OEIS, which the Navy completed with community input in 2010.

Proposed Action: The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives, in the MITT Study Area. The Proposed Action also includes pier-side sonar maintenance and testing alongside Navy piers located in Inner Apra Harbor, and land-based training activities at existing ranges and other training locations on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the Navy and other military services accomplish their mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Public Involvement: The completion of the Final EIS/OEIS follows several years of research, analysis and public involvement. The Navy held five public scoping meetings in September 2011 and four public meetings in November 2013 for the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The Final EIS/OEIS includes public comments received during the Draft EIS/OEIS review period and Navy responses to those comments. Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action.

The Final EIS/OEIS is available online at www.MITT-EIS.com and at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library and Rota Public Library.

For More Information: Visit the project website at www.MITT-EIS.com or contact: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Attention: MITT EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Customs shows off newest member of its K9 family

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Customs Services showed off the latest addition to its K9 family yesterday.

Red, a female chocolate Labrador, has been with the division since late March and is in its third week of training.

According to Capt. Jesse Atalig, the 17-month-old Lab is from Daytona, Florida, and that he picked her out from a group of dogs that were presented to him during his visit.

Customs' dogs are now up to four, the other being Ben, Charlie, and Sid, all males.

Red was already pre-trained in detection skills before being

acquired.

"We choose the dog depending on its performance," Atalig said.

In a brief demonstration at the division's office near the airport yesterday, Red was able to detect a 40-gram bag of methamphetamine or "ice" hidden in one of the three pickup trucks parked outside.

After sniffing the vehicles one after the other, it sat down in front of one of the trucks that had the bag of "ice." Her reward? She got to play with a ball.

Red is being trained by K9 handler trainee Shawn Dela Cruz, who has been with Customs for nine months.

Dela Cruz became Red's

partner after bonding with her during the selection of who was to be the dog's trainer.

Although it is his first time to handle detection dogs and has had minor challenges along the way, he said he is intent on pursuing it as a career.

"This is my way of helping the community," said Dela Cruz who also wants to stop the proliferation of drugs on the island.

Red needs to complete the seven-week training before she will be allowed to do real detection work at the airport, seaport, post office, and other areas where Customs inspection is needed.

Aside from meth, Red can

also detect marijuana, cocaine, and heroin.

Still in need of resources

The new Labrador costs \$10,000, including its shipment to Saipan. Atalig said they want to acquire a couple of more for their force.

"If we can get two, I think we'll be able to be good with the operations, we can cover a lot of places where the dogs are needed," he said.

However, Atalig clarified that dogs are just one of the tools in detecting illegal drugs and contraband. They will still need to have other equipment to help them like the x-ray machine that is long overdue.

Atalig said Customs already made known to the Legislature their need for these pieces of equipment.

"We need to try and get [the House] Ways and Means [Committee] to act on it fast," Atalig said.

"This one here is a necessity. Customs and [the Department of Public Safety] declared war on ice. In order for us to win this battle we need the equipment, we need resources," he added.

K9 handler trainee Shawn Dela Cruz poses with the Division of Customs' newest drug detection dog, a female chocolate Labrador named Red.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA



Changes OK'd for CDA's micro loan program

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board has approved recommended changes to the CNMI's micro loan program.

The changes, among others, allow "start-up" businesses without credit history and a previous bank denial to borrow amounts up to \$3,000.

This "no need for bank denial" was the "big item" or big news with the program, according to CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho yesterday.

Any loan above \$3,000

would require one bank denial, he said. Previously, the program had asked for three.

Camacho was confirming yesterday if the board had revoked the micro loan program changes as discussed in a meeting last week.

In that meeting, the changes had failed to garner enough votes as one board member from Tinian voted against them. The board member later withdrew his vote, and a new motion was made, Camacho said.

Previously, the program required three bank denials but the CDA board directed manage-

ment to fast track the process, resulting in less bank denials and a loan application reduced to two pages.

The board also approved a "sinking fund" as part of the program application, which could be established "depending on the borrower's and management's determination."

Camacho compared this fund to "more like a savings account," explaining that the fund would be there "in case the loan defaults."

A certain amount—to be established by CDA and the borrower—would be added on top of monthly repayments.



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NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (May 13, 2015)

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) revised *Section 8 Administrative Plan for Rental Assistance Programs – Housing Choice Voucher Program*, NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public of the following:

1. NMHC will be updating the current Applicant Waiting List for its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program beginning on **June 01, 2015**, by removing applicants:
 - a. Who requests that his/her name be removed;
 - b. Who fail to respond to a written request for information updating their application;
 - c. Who fail to respond to a written request declaring his/her continued interest; or
 - d. Who no longer meets the program's eligibility criteria.

NOTE: The updating of the Applicant Waiting List will only apply to applicants that submitted a pre-application in March 2014.

Written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and **required** to contact NMHC at the following telephone numbers or email addresses listed below. Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to the following individuals:

1. **Saipan Office – Telephone Numbers: 234-6866 or 234-9447**
 - David Chargualaf, PHD Manager – email: phdmanager@nmhc.gov.net
 - Nanette Palacios, Housing Specialist – email: housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp
 - Sisi Alvarez, Housing Specialist – email: housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp
2. **Tinian Field Office – Telephone Number: 433-9213**
 - Frances Diaz, Tinian Field Office Representative – email: tiq@nmhc.gov.mp
3. **Rota Field Office – Telephone Number: 532-9410**
 - Arvin Ogo, Rota Field Office Representative – email: rop@nmhc.gov.mp



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- Families that meet the income guidelines
- Families receiving public assistance, such as SSI
- Families with a child who has an IEP
- Foster care families
- Homeless families

How Do I Apply?

Natural parents or legal guardians need to complete and submit the Head Start application packet and required documents.

- Head Start Program Application;
- Proof of all family income stubs for the last 12 months such as, 1040 and W2, pay check stubs, statement from employer, child support, student financial aid, retirement benefits, LES;
- Child's birth certificate;
- Child's Medicaid or other medical insurance coverage;
- Documentation of participation in WIC, NAP, LIHEAP, and/or housing assistance;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) photo ID;
- Legal documents relating to guardianship or custody;
- Copy of IEP for children with disabilities;
- SSI documentation, if applicable.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL HEAD START CENTERS AND AT THE HEAD START OFFICES IN CAPITOL HILL BUILDINGS 1256 & 1259

Head Start Centers will be closed beginning on June 10, please visit our offices or call us after that date. The CNMI PSS Head Start Program does not provide transportation services.



PLEASE CALL 323-7446/7447 OR 322-1739 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Twenty take their oath as newest US citizens

Twenty persons took their oaths as U.S. citizens yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) served as the guest speaker at the naturalization ceremony.

Immigration Services officer

Diane Zedde presented the new citizens, who are mostly from the Philippines. The others are from Canada, Russia, and South Korea.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglo-na conducted the ceremony.

In his speech, Sablan welcomed the newest members of the diverse American family.

"You and I and many of us here in the Northern Mariana Islands share a common experience: We were not born American citizens. We chose to be-

come Americans," Sablan said.

He said citizenship has its privileges but it brings responsibilities as well. "In return for the freedom of speech that we gain, we agree to respect the rights and opinion of others," he said.

In return for the safety of the

law, Sablan said that citizens agree to abide by the law. "In exchange for the privilege of citizenship in a democracy we take upon ourselves responsibilities: to support and defend the laws of our country, to stay informed, to vote," he said.

The newest citizens are Celerina Flordeliz Abadilla, Roberto Kapileo Atalig, Yulia Chuikova Camacho, Zenaida Silvestre Camacho, Su Boon Jin Chang, Conrado Batausa Dela Cerna, Adelina Velasco Dimaano, Ador Gomez Dimaano, Sancho Entico Escobar, and Edwina Espinosa Hocog.

The others are Helen Rubia Ingram, Jonathan Quindica Layugan, Crisanto Bustamante Matias, Gloria Tomado Matias, Aniceta Regis Mendiola, Ronilla Bravo Mendiola, Carmelita Gijapon Ranas, Nicanor Uri Ranas, Rogelio Reyes Santos, and Ronaleen Joy Caralde Yumul. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



NEW ASNMCM OFFICERS

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart welcomes newly sworn in Associated Students of NMC officers during an investiture ceremony on campus. ASNMCM officers are elected each fall semester to represent NMC students. From left: Dr. Hart, NMC president; Roman Tudela, treasurer; Andrew Villanueva, senator; Lorielyn Lacay, senator; Riya Natharani, senator; Lupe Camacho, secretary; Salvi Villanueva, vice president; and Keisuke Yoshida, president.

NMC

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to our mother and grandmother, Margarita DLG. Castro! May God shower his blessings on you and may the love of family and friends help to put a smile on your face on your special day today. Filis Kumpliñus, Mom! From your children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia · limwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DATA SYSTEMS ANALYST

Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Performs the full range of data entry and database contents review for pre- and post-judgment services in civil, criminal, traffic, small claims, and family court dockets;
- Compiles data from various sources including court databases, periodic reports, surveys, and performance tool reviews from the Judges' chambers, Family Court Division, Administrative Support Units, the Marshal Service Division, and the Offices of the Clerks of Court and Adult Probation Supervision;
- Reviews data compilation reports and trends and assists with the determination of analysis and interpretation outcomes;
- Performs credibility reviews to assess data quality, verification and update, including review of standard data audit components like computer entry processes, user practices, reporting templates, screen formats, and initial source verification documents;
- Identifies, interprets, and reports patterns and trends from data collection and/or audits;
- Responds to general inquiries regarding data verification and reporting for the Superior Court and assist with data integration processes with affected divisions or authorized agencies;
- Coordinates and assists the Clerk of Court with special projects requiring court statistics or reports;
- Adheres to and complies with all promulgated policies, standards, and codes of ethical conduct; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Data Systems Analyst should have an associate's degree from an accredited U.S. university or college or 2 years of equivalent experience. The incumbent must also have at least four (4) years experience in the legal or administrative field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818 Fax. (670) 236-9702

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office

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T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary range: \$20,485 - \$24,889.35 depending on experience and qualification.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Healthy and filling breakfast: a combination of organic granola-yogurt-fruit on a tall glass, a mini pan of eggs and beans, and hash browns now being served at La Trattoria N-1.

Good food, good view, good morning, it's La Trattoria N-1

Restaurant opens its doors for breakfast

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are days when it's just hard to wake up in the morning. For times like that, all you need is something to look forward to. A mouthwatering breakfast with a stunning view, just a few minutes away, would do the trick.

It's breakfast time once again for La Trattoria N-1, now serving at their new Capital Hill location. Melt away the morning daze with delicious menu items for the most important meal of the day.

A healthy start

As part of its initial offerings, the Italian restaurant will be serving three set meals and several side orders. But who says breakfast can't be both healthy and delicious?

"We will give them choices on the breakfast menu, but they will be healthy [choices]," said La Trattoria N-1 chef Mar Balladares.

First on the list is a combination of organic granola-yogurt-fruit in a tall glass, a mini pan of eggs and beans, and hash browns all delicately plated on a cutting board tray—a delectable serving of your daily fiber, protein and carbohydrate requirements.

"These are local favorites with a twist," said Balladares.

Heavy breakfast eaters would adore the English muffin layered with white egg, cheddar cheese, and a veal patty, paired with a veggie salad drizzled with sundried tomato vinaigrette, and a cup

of coffee.

"If they request for Italian vinaigrette, or ranch vinaigrette we have them also," Balladares said.

In the works is another item that features a pairing of fried cottage cheese curd and veggie salad.

Orders of pancakes, creamy Italian rice porridge, biscuits, crepes with various fillings like salmon and cheese, Italian coffees, and organic teas are also available.

With a range of options to choose from, priced between \$9 to \$14, a quick, delicious, and healthy breakfast has never been easier.

According to restaurant owner Vlad Melnik, these are just some of their primary ideas, a preliminary "taste test" if you will, with plans to expand their breakfast menu as they go along.

Growing popularity

La Trattoria N-1 previously offered breakfast at their former location on Middle Road, but stopped when they relocated to the former Coffee Care.

After four months since reopening his doors, Melnik decided to jump back into the breakfast game to cater to the on-the-go professionals seeking new and delicious options.

"We are getting popular, especially in the nearby offices and with the adventurous tourist we see roaming the island. Every day I see new faces, new guests. It's good!"

According to Melnik, a lot of people ask if they are open in the morning. "Trattoria will serve breakfast for them," he added.

Obyan Beach cleanup on June 6

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Obyan Beach on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at Obyan Beach at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

May's Sugar Dock beach cleanup had 17 volunteers from Saipan Southern High

School/YEA Club, Marianas High School, and others. About 100 lbs of marine debris was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. **(BECQ)**

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Another breakfast option at La Trattoria is a serving of English muffin with white egg, cheddar cheese and veal patty, veggie salad drizzled with sundried tomato vinaigrette, and a cup of coffee.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Maureen Basa) FCD-DI CIVIL
Deleon Guerrero) ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 12-0476
vs.)
Edward Cabrera) **SUMMONS FOR**
Deleon Guerrero) **PUBLICATION**
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 5508 CHRB as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estates of) CIVIL ACTION
MATEO M. TAISACAN and) NO. 04-0498
SABINA M. TAISACAN) and consolidated
Deceased.) case
(C.A. No. 07-0289)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estates of Mateo M. Taisacan and Sabina M. Taisacan in and to the following property: an agricultural homestead situated in Ginalagan, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Tract no. 22127, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Survey Plat no. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sales. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sales.

DATED, this 7th day of May, 2015.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Annabelle C. Plummer) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION
vs.) NO. 15-0016
Eric D. Plummer) **SUMMONS FOR**
Respondent) **PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner, whose address is P.O. Box 506507, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 11-0078
vs.) NOTICE OF
MICHAEL R. MUÑA) AUCTION and
and MILA L. MUÑA,) JUDICIAL SALE
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 17th day of September, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **10th day of June, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 010 K 04, containing an area of 892 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987 and filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on August 19, 1987 as File No. 87-2911.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Yemen's plight: US arms do the damage in a poor country

A conference held by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh last week underscores the damage being inflicted on Yemen by Saudi bombing conducted with U.S. arms.

The conference also points up the political confusion in Yemen, the unlikely end to the fighting and the lack of wisdom in U.S. involvement.

Yemen, with 25 million people, has been in turmoil since 2011 when the United States was involved in the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his replacement by Vice President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Both are Sunni Muslims.

Yemen for many years has been troubled by a North-South division. The two regions started out as separate, then were unified in 1990. But secessionist tendencies continue.

The other fissure is between the country's Sunnis, who make up 65 percent of the population, and Shiites. The Shiites are organized into an armed movement named after the Houthis, their dominant tribe. The Houthis have taken control of much of the country and driven Mr. Hadi into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis, with aircraft, armaments and technical support from the United States, have been bombing the Houthi-held areas of Yemen. In the meantime, the forces of the former president have been fighting the forces of the exiled president.

Yemen's cities and villages are being reduced to rubble and many civilians are being killed. But the Riyadh conference was useless in trying to end the conflict since it did not include the Houthis.

The question is why does the United States approve of arms for this bloody civil war? The argument that it's because U.S. companies sold the Saudis their aircraft is cynical at best—and it lacks moral grounding at worst.

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The further decline of honeybees could hit home

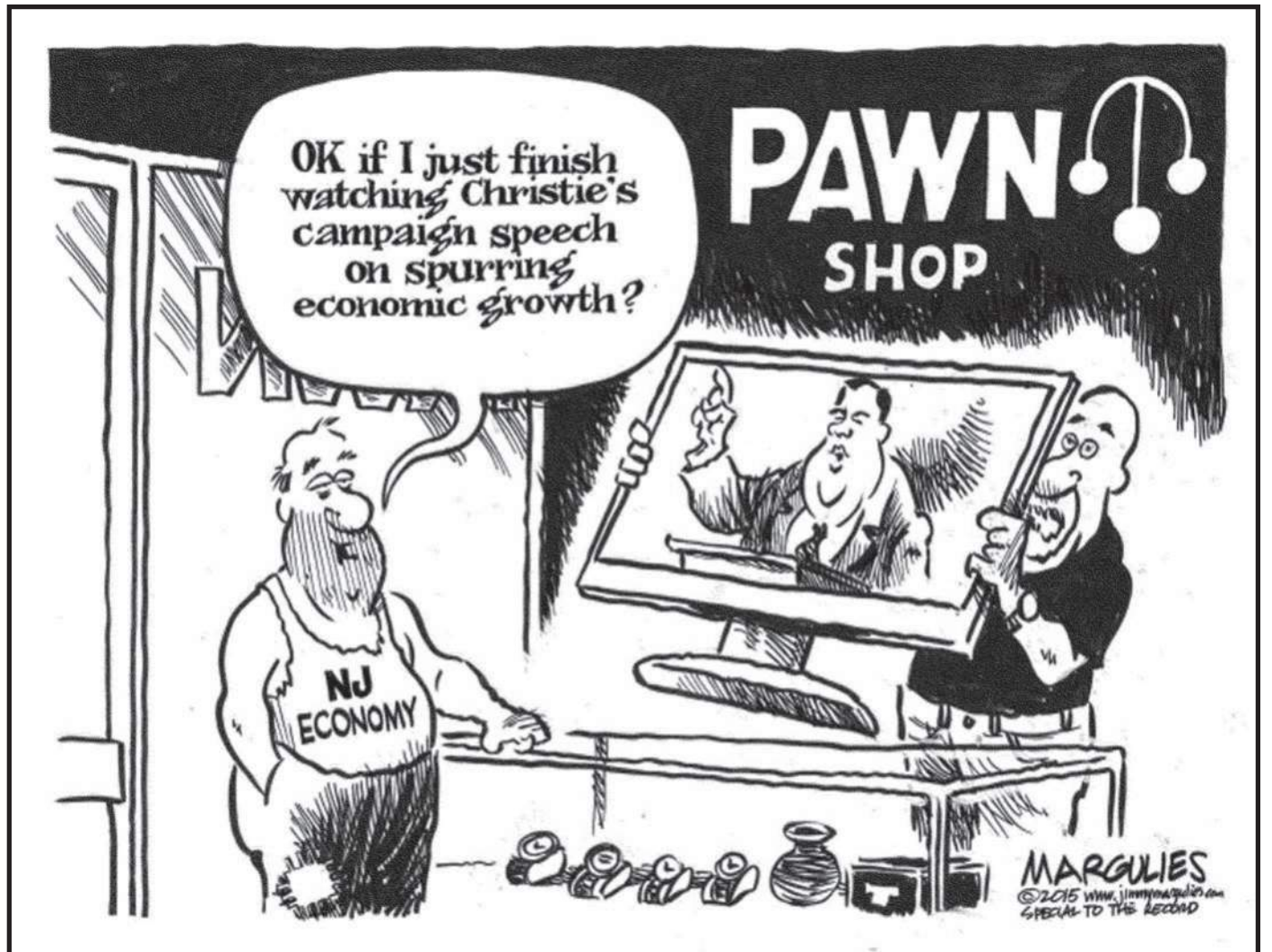
More than 40 percent of honeybees in managed colonies died during the past year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said last week.

In the 12 months beginning in April 2014, beekeepers reported that 42.1 percent of their honeybees died, up from 34.2 percent the previous year, the USDA said.

But because bees died at a slightly lower rate this past winter, Bayer CropScience issued a statement trumpeting "good news on overwinter bee health trends." As a manufacturer of a type of insecticide that some scientists blame for honeybee loss, Bayer CropScience looks hard for the silver lining in what many believe is a global catastrophe.

Honeybees are important to the food supply because they pollinate 130 types of fruits, nuts and vegetables. Their numbers have been declining since 2006, causing the government

See EDITORIAL on Next Page



Will the sentries of sanctimony please lighten up?

WASHINGTON, D.C.—By lunchtime Monday, the week's *meae culpa*e were trickling in on schedule.

These are the boilerplate apologies from celebrities, politicians and organizations that have inadvertently offended some faction of our increasingly sensitive and humorless species by using a forbidden word, an insensitive phrase or an unfortunate metaphor. You know what I mean.

Under Armour, the sportswear company, committed the first offense and outrage that crossed my Thought Control Scanner this week. The transgression was a "Band of Ballers" T-shirt that played on the famous Iwo Jima image of Marines raising a flag by showing basketball players raising a hoop.

I thought it was cool. Wrong. It was declared to be an act of desecration and Under Armour had to eat synthetic-fiber crow.

"Under Armour has the utmost respect and admiration for the men and women on active duty and veterans who have served our country," the statement said. "As such, we deeply regret and apologize that a t-shirt that was not reflective of our values in honoring and supporting our country's heroes went on sale."

That heartfelt corporate apology (oxymoron duly noted) will certainly be followed by some contribution to a Wounded Warrior fund (a phrase that offends many, by the way), 40 lashes and a chastised grunt in the marketing department.

It was unclear exactly who was offended except for some cranks on Twitter, a distorted global megaphone for both offending and being offended.

Next victim: Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez of California and a contender for a Senate seat. Sanchez was at a party event Saturday and told a story about how sometimes Indian Americans get confused with Native Americans.

She made the fatal mistake of adding a little Native American "war cry" noise to what she thought was a funny little shtick (a word of Yiddish extraction that I am allowed to use by senior management). She was promptly called out for illegal use of guttural noises in public.

The fact she is Native American on her mother's side doesn't get her off the hook. Language laws were broken and the law is the law.

"So in this crazy and exciting rush of meetings yesterday, I said something offensive, and for that I sincerely apologize," Sanchez said.

"And yes, sooner or later, we make mistakes," she added. "Because you know what? We're all humans."

Well that's not good enough, congresswoman. We want robots, not humans. And it's not "humans," by the way; the proper term is "hupeople."

"The question now is whether Loretta Sanchez survives this serious misstep," said Rose Kopolczynski, a Democratic something-or-other said. A serious misstep? Seriously?

The supply of examples of unnecessary boilerplate apolo-

By DICK MEYER

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com.



gizes is vast.

Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis apologized for calling Johnny Manziel of the rival Cleveland Browns a "midget."

"I'm aware that my comment on local radio last night was offensive to people of short stature and to their families and friends," Lewis said in a short statement. "It was thoughtless on my part to use the word I did, and not excusable, and I greatly regret it. I since have read about this issue on the Little People of America website."

Fine, but now the rest do not know whether to use "people of short stature" or "little people."

It would be nice to report that the Thought Control censors—the prissiness police, the sentries of sanctimony—have cried wolf so many times that no one pays attention any more. But that isn't so.

The British actor, Benedict Cumberbatch, was on the "Tavis Smiley" show a few weeks ago and forcefully criticized the lack of diversity among British actors. He said, "I think as far as colored actors go it gets really difficult in the U.K."

Smiley didn't call him out for uttering a forbidden word — "colored" — but the apology trolls did and tabloids ran with it.

"I'm devastated to have caused offense by using this outmoded terminology," the "Sherlock" star said in a statement. "I offer my sincere apologies. I make no excuse for my being an idiot and know the damage is done."

No one could possibly watch the offending snippet and see even a wisp of ill will.

But we don't even bother to ask anymore if gotcha gaffes and offensive locutions are intentional and malicious or just innocent mess-ups and unfortunate blurts. There is no presumption of an absence of malice. It seems only the comedians and rappers are exempt, while performing.

Ironically, the Internet and social media have become global platforms for hate talk, personal slander, racism and tribalism, emboldened by the intoxicating poison of anonymity. It is proving to be uncontrollable and ubiquitous.

So in some ways, it's understandable that some virtue vigilantes force apologies when they can get them, even when there is no real crime.

We'd all be better off stabling the high horses and joining the posse when it truly matters.

‘A`saina, anybody home?’

Harmony seems missing in the tunes heard in the villages these days. Though it's heartfelt expressions, the lyrics speak of hopelessness. The sighs are indications of irregularity in the pulse of the community that could implode shortly.

Some tried to blame mounting disharmony with their amnesiac disposition of recent past. But how do you explain anything to folks who are literally hurting, trapped in their daily struggle for survival?

I've heard tons of expletives erupting all over a grocery store about the cost of basic goods skyrocketing. Obviously, it wasn't the usual hearty conversation when Chamolinians meet.

You wonder what happened here under indigenous self-government after 37 years? It's clear toxic half-cocked leadership has ditched the NMI into bankruptcy.

Many fell for quick fixes, helping the guys and gals feather up their nests. The elitist cabal simultaneously ignored the people who elected them into office. Was this part of the bargain? The issue is about the "economy" and how its downward spiral has inflicted a more vicious hardship on households all over the archipelago. Sad that policymaking is stuck on the prohibition of panty-hanging in Garapan, cockfights and single lane road resolution.

Let's break down the term economy to layman's level so we understand the beast with clarity. The bottom line: The economy relates to your annual income versus family obligations. Has your yearly income improved over the last 10 years? If the answer is in the negative, and I'm sure it is, then the so-called economy is still flat on its face. It hasn't helped you at all. Therefore it hasn't improved or reached at least the recovery level. This as the price of everything around you skyrockets!

Are you supporting kids in college today? Have you been able to send money recently? Have you ably met paying for the first family home consistently? Have you been able to replace the old family car? How have you dealt with the cost of health premiums (insurance) and deductibles? Do you have disposable income after meeting all family obligations at least for a cold drink?

I'm not a cheerleader of doom for I know the dire consequences of the deepening economic dystopia—where nothing works—the elected elite caught dazed in the midst of it all. And just as other cheerleaders spout focus on tourism, the vehicle disappears into the sunset. Asiana cuts down flight frequency to once a day while Delta Airlines reduces service by this winter. How then do we ferry visitors from nearby? I'm tempted to look for the "flying congressman" but his kiting operations has gone belly up.

Our canoe is sinking steadily sitting in the harbor. The captain sizes up the seaworthiness of the boat, what with torn sails and the lack of paddles to guide it out of the channel. Like the steady depletion of funds in the coffers, the boat steadily sinks as bad weather sets in and water inundates it. *A`saina*, anybody home?

Politics vs profit

Sophomoric rhetoric must be the most devastating hangover politicians continue to use to this day on the poor economic posture of the CNMI. It goes to show two prominent inadequacies: 1). No clue what healthy economy entails. 2). None of them has ever run a business to understand first hand that it survives on profit alone!

I mean when your business consistently dips into red ink no matter if you recite, *I Have A Dream*, it's not going to bring it back unless it starts raking in pennies, nickels, and dimes. No amount of

Egypt's Sisi is fueling discontent

If you were looking for an Egyptian who could help his country fulfill the lost promise of the Arab Spring—some day—you couldn't do better than Emad Shahin, an internationally renowned and liberal scholar who studies political Islam.

So why was this mild-mannered academic sentenced to death in absentia Saturday in a Cairo court?

The answer lays bare the misguided policies of Egypt's new autocratic government, led by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, which is trying to muzzle all domestic critics in the name of fighting terrorism. This strategy is more likely to make Egypt's terrorism problem worse.

Shahin, a visiting professor at Georgetown University on leave from the American University of Cairo, was condemned along with 16 others on charges of conspiring with Hamas and Hezbollah to destabilize Egypt.

The charges are ludicrous, according to the many U.S. academics who know Shahin well (he holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and has taught at Harvard and Notre Dame). "I would sooner believe that Vice President Biden is a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army than I would give credence to the charges against Emad," says Nathan Brown, a well-known expert on Egypt at George Washington University. I agree.

Moreover, Shahin, who "categorically and emphatically" denies the charges, has never been a member or supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood. Why, then, did an Egyptian court sentence him to die?

Shahin appears to have been targeted for his criticism of the military's bloody crackdown following the coup against Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi, the country's first democratically elected leader, when around 1,000 peaceful protesters were killed.

While sharply critical of Morsi's performance, Shahin had also argued that ousting him would strengthen the claim of violent Egyptian Islamists that it is pointless for Islamists to run in elections since the results won't be respected. The Brotherhood, for all its flaws, had abandoned violent tactics decades ago and opted to work through the political system.

"Sisi is validating the militants' claim that you can only deal with the regime via violence," Shahin said.

The Sisi regime has vowed to destroy the Brotherhood, linking its members with violent jihadi groups in the Sinai, although terrorism experts see no such connection. Morsi was sentenced to death with 100 others in another sham trial on Saturday for the crime of breaking out of jail in the midst of the Tahrir Square

revolt against President Hosni Mubarak. Morsi and other Brotherhood members had been rounded up by Mubarak's security forces but escaped after the guards abandoned their posts.

Earlier this year, a judge handed down more than 1,200 death sentences, mostly to Brotherhood members, in two mass verdicts. Egyptian authorities admitted last year to having arrested 22,000 people, mostly Brotherhood members. Egyptian human rights groups claim the number is double that.

Meantime, the government has also gone after leaders of the liberal groups, such as the April 6 Movement, which were the organizers of the Tahrir revolt. Bloggers and journalists also languish in prison. "They want to crush any kind of movement that can create an opposition to them," says Shahin.

In one especially troubling case, Egyptian courts sentenced Mohamed Soltan, a 27-year-old Ohio State graduate and dual American-Egyptian citizen, to life in prison after he worked as a volunteer translator for foreign press during a peaceful Brotherhood protest. A hunger strike left him gravely ill, but, amazingly, given \$1.3 billion in annual U.S. aid to Egypt, American diplomats haven't been able to get him deported back to the United States.

Shahin believes his own case is meant to send a warning that "it is very risky to oppose the regime," even via writing or verbal critiques.

"They are undoing the revolution and creating a security state under the direct control of the military which can usher in decades of authoritarianism," he told me. He says state-controlled media are whipping up public fears of instability, which the government blames on its opponents.

The tragedy here is that Sisi's heavy hand is likely to worsen the real terror threat the country faces. In the Sinai desert, where ISIS-linked cells have attacked Egyptian security forces, the government

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Native-born rights

This piece is about how I think the U.S. democracy is being turned into more of a communist government. The reason why I say this is because of the long distance relationship the CNMI and USA have.

If I am not mistaken, the forefathers of the Declaration of Independence had a vision of *independence*, *democracy*, and *liberty*. I mean they stood up and told King George and his cronies that enough is enough. How could a bunch of colonies be controlled by a tyrannical king a thousand miles away? It behooves me to say this but I think the present U.S. government is oppressing and discriminating like King George and his cronies, or worse yet King Obama and his cronies. I do love the U.S. democracy but not the present individuals who are in it now.

So for me, I would like to call on the present legislators to maybe revisit the Covenant and maybe amend or discard it. I think that a new Covenant should be put together to address the issue above. They should include in bold text the vision of the forefathers and also emphasize the preservation of our unique identity as people of the CNMI islands.

I am for total independence but most would not agree. But on the other hand a workable independence might be an alternative, like maybe form an alliance that the U.S. can count on when need-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

faulty perception and syntax is going to help either.

When legislators use "circuitous logic" to drive everything into the ditch of bankruptcy, it's obvious it hasn't used critical scrutiny and analysis in its review process. Seesuzzzz!

The wind...

A layman's simplistic view is to impose austerity and cut expenses. Nonetheless, it's far more complicated than meets the eye. For instance, we might decide to cut structural deficit to bring down expenses. But is it a realistic alternative when new revenue is scarce to cushion such decision? Moreover, we would have to figure out how much of the debt is structural or cyclical.

Government is allowed deficit spending for as long as it doesn't exceed certain percentage of its gross domestic product—total annual revenue—under an accrual system. It's good to be on full guard, though how we navigate the treacherous seas of significant reduction in revenues and mounting obligations and deficit. We may even have to defer to an old Latin proverb: "If the wind will not do, take to the oars."

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.

has alienated tribes that might be convinced to repel the jihadis.

And by crushing all political dissent, Sisi is repeating Hosni Mubarak's mistakes and once more fueling the frustrations that led to the Tahrir Square explosions. "He's shut down every peaceful avenue for civic participation," says Shahin. "He is pushing the entire country to the brink of violence." Younger Brotherhood members are already hinting, since Morsi's death sentence, that violent tactics may be needed.

In its eagerness to ease troubled relations with Sunni Arab states as it pursues a nuclear accord with Shiite Iran, the White House has barely responded to the death sentences. In truth, Sisi might slough off criticism from Washington. (Or he might cynically commute some of them to life imprisonment.)

But the death sentences of Morsi and Shahin—at opposite ends of the political spectrum—should serve as a warning to the West that Egypt's war on dissent is bound to boomerang. President Obama should be making this point forcefully to Sisi.

"This is fundamentally a struggle between military hegemony and civilian, democratic rule," says Shahin, "and I got crushed in between."

ed. I mean, look at our population number.

Luciano M. Rangamar
Eatonville, Washington

Medical marijuana

There is significant public support in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the legalization of medical marijuana. Despite unnecessary delays in making these changes, it is widely accepted that we are close to achieving legal reforms.

U.S. states and territories have inconsistent lists as to what illnesses qualify for medical marijuana. While some illnesses may be highlighted in a law, medical marijuana should be legally available for all patients with debilitating medical conditions that a licensed physician determines may benefit from it.

Additionally, the CNMI welcomes many tourists as well as locals visiting home who now reside in U.S. states and territories that allow for medical marijuana. Any law implemented in the CNMI should recognize the validity of medical marijuana cards issued through other jurisdictions.

Cost is also a major factor. Any dispensary prices should be capped at \$150 per ounce and patients should be allowed to grow their own medicine, or have a caregiver do it for them.

Eric Hafner
Toms River, New Jersey

EDITORIAL

From Page 10






to form a task force and dispatch \$3 million so farmers in five states could re-seed pastures with the clover and alfalfa that bees find tasty.

Scientists remain divided on the cause of the decadelong die-off. Culprits include pesticides, mites, harsh winters and cell phone towers, as well as keepers who feed bees high fructose corn syrup instead of honey.

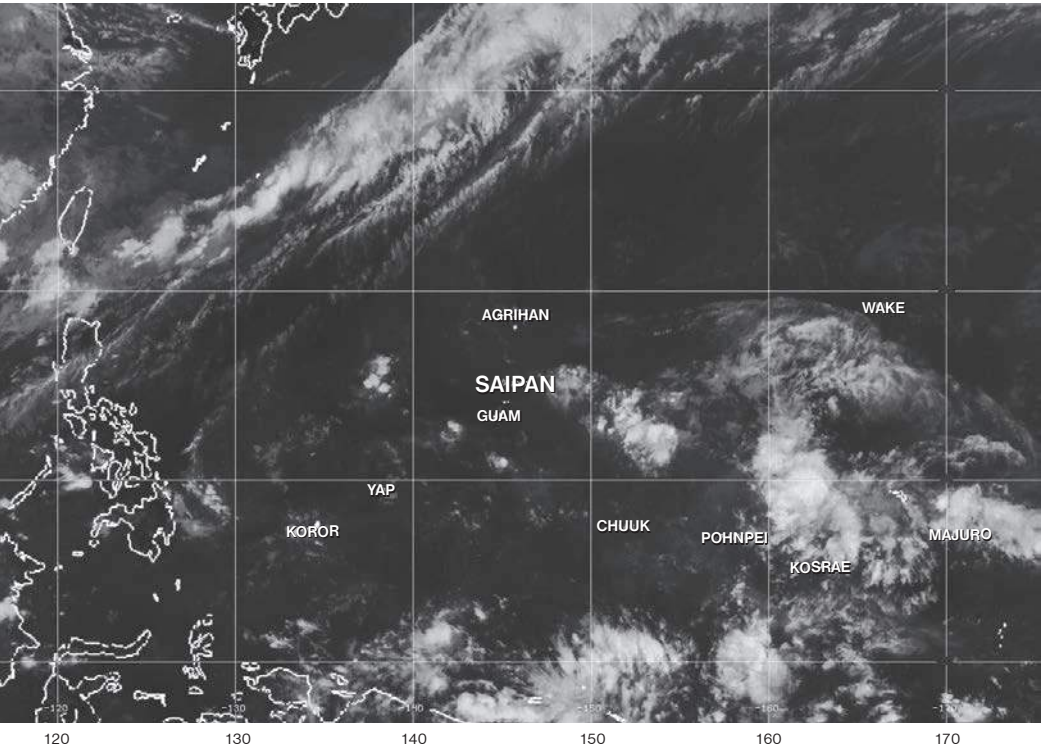
The USDA called the losses "very troubling." In the meantime, there's something everyone can do: plant flowers. And for the love of groceries, if honeybees show up in your yard this spring, treat them as honored guests.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A frontal system southeast of Okinawa is causing cloudiness and scattered showers along and up to 250 miles northwest of a line from 22N130E to 25N136E. A weak monsoon trough extends eastward from 9N130E to a weak circulation centered north of Chuuk near 11N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Saipan are within 75 miles of a line from 15N148E to 12N154E and northeast of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 12N160E to 6N165E. Low-level convergence along the equator south of Chuuk and Pohnpei is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of 2N from 140E to 160E. A surface trough over the Marshall Islands is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 9N170E to 7N176E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼45
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼69
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼68
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼66
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Rome	Thundershowers	▲75	▼56
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲90	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲88	▼65
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼73



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:47 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	1:22 PM	1:07 AM
Thursday	2:09 PM	1:45 AM
Friday	2:56 PM	2:24 AM
Saturday	3:45 PM	3:03 AM
Sunday	4:35 PM	3:44 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL287/275	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

Chikungunya virus has now reached half of Pacific Islands

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The chikungunya virus has now reached half of the Pacific Island countries and territories and is likely to continue spreading to non-affected countries in the region and other parts of the world.

Surveillance experts at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community closely monitor this emerging disease in collaboration with countries, territories and regional partners of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.

Since 2011, when the first outbreak of chikungunya was detected in the Pacific region (in New Caledonia), 14 chikungunya virus outbreaks and circulations have been reported by 11 of the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

"As anticipated, the virus has been spreading rapidly and causing significant outbreaks in the Pacific region, similar to what was witnessed in the Indian Ocean region in 2005-2007," the Deputy Director of SPC's Public Health Division, Dr. Yvan Souarès, said.

"We estimate that it will continue to spread for some years due to a number of factors, mainly the low immunity of the populations in the non-affected countries, the presence of mosquitoes capable of transmitting the virus in most parts of the region, the weakness of mosquito control resources in most Pacific Island countries and the high mobility of the population," Souarès added.

People traveling to, or staying in, countries where chikungunya is circulating can take measures to avoid contracting and spreading the disease by protecting themselves from mosquito bites and contributing to mosquito control efforts.

SPC maintains an interactive Web-based map showing where chikungunya and other emerging and epidemic diseases are currently circulating in the region: www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/

If people are ill while staying in or coming back from affected countries, with the following symptoms—high fever (>38°C) and joint pains (other common

ON THE NET

To learn more about chikungunya and regional work in this area, consult the following documents:

- www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/
- www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20929
- www.pphsn.net/Publications/PPHSN-Pacific-Outbreak-Manual.htm
- www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs327/en/
- www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/Factsheet_Chikungunya-what-you-need-to-know.pdf

symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and skin rash—they should think of chikungunya and quickly consult a doctor for diagnosis.

The symptoms are similar to those of dengue disease that is also currently circulating in the region.

The often-prolonged joint pain, especially in small joints like hands and feet, is particular to chikungunya.

The pain can be debilitating and last several months, badly affecting daily activities and livelihoods of sick people and impact the economy of affected

communities.

"It is important for people to consult a medical professional when they feel ill, both for their own health and also to limit the spread of this kind of diseases to other people in the region, and beyond, when travelling," Souarès stressed.

The innovative online health surveillance tool is part of a comprehensive response by SPC and regional partners of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network to assist Pacific Island countries and territories in their efforts to strengthening surveillance and response measures and better protect Pacific populations from chikungunya and other emerging diseases.

It is made possible with funding from the Australian government, the New Zealand Aid Program and the French Pacific Fund. (SPC)

Map of reported chikungunya infection outbreaks or virus circulations, Pacific Region, 2011 – 2015 (as of 26 May 2015)



Interior provides \$250,000 in emergency assistance to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved last Friday \$250,000 to assist Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and other emergency recovery officials in efforts to help over 300 individuals and families displaced in the wake of Typhoon Dolphin that hit Guam on May 15, 2015. The funding will be used to purchase tents, generators, portable cooling units, toiletry and first-aid kits, as well as food.

Kia'aina and her staff from the Office of Insular Affairs have expedited consideration and release of funds for this emergency in Guam in response to urgent requests from island leaders.

Calvo issued a disaster emergency declaration to "expedite the islandwide response and recovery of torrential rain caused by Typhoon Dolphin causing widespread flooding and coastal inundation." Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador to the U.S. Asterio Takesy also made a plea for Office of Insular Affairs assistance.

"People [in] Guam are still reeling from the effects of this storm and we are pleased to support the governor in assisting Guam's residents, including those who have migrated from the Freely Associated States under the Compacts of Free Association," said Kia'aina. "The funds will be helping those who are now either homeless or are living in substandard conditions as a result of Dolphin and who

are at a risk for their health, safety and wellbeing. We want Guam to be successful in providing residents the basic necessities as they either return home or move into temporary or intermediate housing for the short-term and transition out of storm shelters for the long term."

Under separate Compacts of Free Association with the U.S. government, citizens of the neighboring Pacific island nations of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau may travel freely to the United States and its territories

» Funds to assist over 300 primarily from FAS ineligible for FEMA funding

for work and education without regard for visa. As of the latest U.S. Bureau of Census enumeration in 2013, there were 17,170 individuals from the Freely Associated States living in Guam.

"The recent circumstances of Typhoon Dolphin raise an important federal matter pertaining to the issue of Compact Impact aid and the applicability or non-applicability of federal assistance for citizens of the Freely Associated States living in the United States," said Kia'aina. "I commit to working with the White House and other federal agencies, the governors of the affected jurisdictions, the leaders from the Freely Associated States and their communities, to develop short- and long-term federal strategies to address the issue of Compact Impact aid. It is not something that the Department of the Interior can shoulder alone. It requires a comprehensive approach." (OIA)



RUN FOR NEPAL

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. senior underwriter Jessica Sablan, second left, presents a check donation on behalf of their company to Nepalese Community of Saipan president Mahesh Thapa, third right, for the Run for Nepal relief and fundraising program designed to help aid victims of the earthquake that hit Nepal last month. Also in the photo are other Pacifica staff members and a volunteer for Run for Nepal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nine parents, 12 children finish literacy programs

Beginning April 18, 2015, and culminating on May 20, 2015, Rota's very own Songsong Head Start Center celebrated its much anticipated CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread spring completion ceremony.

The monthlong dynamic pro-literacy session graduated four committed parents: Donna Elena M. Ogo, Laralyn Castro Atalig, Lynette G. Cabrera, and Jackie G. Manglona in the Adult Course under the tutelage of Certified Motherhead/Fatheread parent trainer Mary Lynn C. Ogo.

Meanwhile, Shane Manglona, Landon Avery Toves,

Leon'j A. Castro, and J'Ana Edat O. Hocog completed the children's story exploring class under Story Exploring instructor Quindy Maratita.

This spring, Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center held its first ever CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread session. On May 11, 2015, team Motherhead/Fatheread proudly celebrated their completion ceremony for five parents in the Adult Course: Neha Devjani, Emily V. Bamba, Nhing B. Reyes, Jolene Dlg. Doronila, and Jhoanna I. Fernando. The course was facilitated by par-



Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center holds its first ever completion ceremony for the CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread program on May 11, 2015.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Songsong Head Start Center on Rota celebrates its much anticipated CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread spring completion ceremony on May 20, 2015.

ent trainer Lilia King.

Also, Story Exploring instructor Ignacia Reyes, together with volunteer Joycie Estabillo, successfully graduated eight children: Krish Devjani, Krisha Devjani, Kevin Doronila, Kyle Doronila, Haani King, Antwone Acollator, Sarah Angla Melchor, and Remiegem Melchor.

The CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread program is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

For a summer schedule of the next Motherhead/Fatheread program available near you, contact 235-7319, email cnmi-motherhead@gmail.com, or go to the Facebook page of CNMI Motherhead Fatheread. (PR)

GMS promotes 58 students to their next grade levels

Before an audience of students, parents, family members, friends, and guests gathered in a room at Pacific Islands Club Saipan that served as the venue of Green Meadow School's 2015 Commencement Exercises on May 17, 2015, school president and principal Milagros M. Songcuan officially confirmed the promotion of 58 graduating Kindergarten and elementary students to the next grade levels.

The graduates and the whole audience were treated to inspirational remarks delivered by the graduation's guest speaker, Rep. Vinson "Vinnie" F. Sablan of Precinct 4, who eloquently spoke on the theme "Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction"—a quote from U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

In a specially heartwarming segment of his speech, Sablan expressed deep personal connection and appreciation for GMS as the buildings and grounds that used to be their residence for so many years are now being used to educate and

care for children. In the later part of the program, Sablan assisted the school president and GMS board chair Ador Songcuan in distributing diplomas, awards, medals, and plaques to graduating students.

The recognition programs for GMS non-graduating students were conducted hours before the graduation ceremonies in the same venue where Eli Arago, senior vice president and chief finance officer of Tan Holdings Corp., was the guest speaker. Arago's speech expounded on Robert Louis Stevenson's quote, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

School year 2014-2015 top honors went to the following highly deserving graduates:

■ Kinder 5 - Chalan Kiya: Jaeden Miquel R. Ablog (Valedictorian) and Vimarie Alna A. Alfeche (Salutarian)

■ Kinder 5 - Gualo Rai: Josephine L. Lopez (Valedictorian) and Paula Angela Bernardo (Salutarian)

■ Elementary: Mike Mame N. Mendoza (Valedictorian)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School president Mila Songcuan, second from left, and board chair Ador Songcuan, with their daughter Lizelle, leftmost, join Rep. Vinnie Sablan, second from right, in congratulating elementary grade valedictorian Mikee Mame N. Mendoza, center, who is joined by her mother and grandmother, rightmost, after the Commencement Exercise held on May 17, 2015, at Pacific Island Club Saipan.

and Xavier P. Gatmaitan (Salutarian)

The Green Meadow School administration, faculty and staff

congratulate the 2015 graduates and their parents for job well

done. Congratulations and God bless, Falcons!" (GMS)

Business

'Pre-loved' luxury goods store Blumin opens

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bags are one of the most important accessories for a lot of women. Whether it's a purse, a handbag, or a shoulder bag, it is carefully picked for the occasion or to flaunt one's personality and status.

No wonder luxury bags, despite their skyrocketing prices, remain popular not only among those who earn six-digit salaries but also for those who need to save up every penny just to afford them.

Despite the laidback lifestyle of the island, Saipan is no exception, especially since a lot of stores on island offer these kinds of luxury items for tourists. Yet the regular retail prices of these luxury products make them practically out of reach for the frugal fashionista.

Now comes a solution: buying secondhand or what is known nowadays as "pre-loved" items that are sold at a fraction of their original prices.

Ayuko Iwane, store manager of the newly opened (and might be the island's only) secondhand luxury items store called Blumin, is more than willing to welcome you.

For everyone

"The salary here in Saipan is not that high, but girls want to buy grand stuff. But brand new is too expensive to buy. That's why I want girls to come here, it's good for them," Iwane said.

Blumin opened just last Monday. Despite its quiet launch and unassuming location, it took

» Branded leather goods, etc., for the frugal fashionista

only a couple of days for Iwane to sell more than 10 items.

As part of its initial offering, Blumin has more than 200 items of bags, wallets, purses, and sunglasses, all certified genuine and fresh from Japan.

It carries luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton (a whole wall is dedicated to this brand from top to bottom), Hermes, Chanel, Bvlgari, and Prada.

According to Iwane, Coach is the most popular so far, with that side of her glass display cabinet almost empty.

Iwane said they are looking at expanding their brands as well as adding watches to their inventory.

For all seasons

If you need another reason to visit the store, here it is: Blumin carries various seasons of bags.

You know how sometimes it takes you awhile to save up for a certain item you saw at a store and when you go back it's already gone? Chances are, they might be at Blumin. Plus, you can also ask Iwane to ask their main store in Japan if they have the item you've been eyeing.

"Some people, they want to buy [off season items] but they don't know where to buy. But our store has a lot of choices," Iwane said.

With regards to pricing, Iwane said their main store provides the prices but a buyer can



haggle or ask for a discount.

She said it all depends on the quality of the item as well as the packaging that comes with it. Some items come with their original cards, tags, boxes or pouches but some just come as is.

The most expensive item in the store so far is a Chanel sling bag, which costs \$4,700 and is in very good condition.

"I tell people to come here first before they go to other stores. They might see something they like for a cheaper price," Iwane said.

For transparency

For some select items, Blumin shows their original prices and then Blumin's lower price.

Through this, they can justify if the item is worth it.

Iwane also encourages buyers to check every corner and pocket of an item for blemishes, scratches or imperfections so that customers know what they are buying, especially since they do not accept returns.

"I invite everybody to check out our store. Our prices are reasonable and we always get new stock. Every month we have new items," she said.

Blumin is located at the Paseo de Marianas and is open every day from 2pm to 10pm. For inquiries, call 233-444.

Blumin, a secondhand luxury items store located at the Paseo de Marianas, boasts of a line of luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Chanel, Bvlgari, and Prada.

FRAULEINE MICHELLE S. VILLANUEVA



Anonymous threats against airliners prompt plane searches

NEW YORK (AP)—Anonymous telephone threats against commercial airliners, possibly from the same source, caused a scare on Monday involving four international flights at airports in New York and New Jersey.

Authorities said the threats did not appear to be credible. They described searches done on three of the jets as a precaution.

In one instance Monday morning, U.S. military jets escorted an Air France flight into New York City after someone claimed a chemical weapon was aboard the aircraft, the FBI said.

"Out of an abundance of caution, Air France flight number 22 was escorted to John F.

Kennedy airport by U.S. Air Force fighter jets following a phone threat," the FBI said in a statement. "There were no incidents or hazards reported on board the flight by either the passengers or its crew. The plane has been cleared."

A Saudi Arabian Airlines flight arriving at Kennedy also was being checked out because of another threat, authorities said.

A third threat was made against an American Airlines jet flying from Birmingham, England, to Kennedy while it was still in the air, said airline spokesman Kent Powell. Authorities initially told the pilot to land and taxi to a remote area

away from the terminal but later radioed that the threat was not credible and cleared the plane to go to the terminal, Powell said.

At Newark Liberty International Airport, passengers were removed from a United Airlines flight after it arrived from Madrid, said United spokeswoman Mary Clark. The plane was being inspected Monday afternoon at a spot away from the terminal.

Maryland State Police said they received an anonymous call at the McHenry barracks in the western part of the state threatening commercial aviation about 6:30 a.m. Monday and referred it to the FBI. They declined to comment further.

Corporate maneuver at Samsung strengthens heir's influence

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Two key Samsung companies are merging in a step toward ensuring the son of the group's ailing chairman inherits control of the theme parks to smartphones conglomerate.

Samsung said Tuesday that its defacto holding company Cheil Industries Inc. will acquire Samsung C&T Corp. by offering 0.35 new Cheil shares for every Samsung C&T share.

The move, to be completed by Sept. 1, requires shareholder approval, which is expected. The combined entity will be named Samsung C&T.

Analysts say the transaction will give Samsung heir Lee Jae-

yong a big say in the conglomerate including its crown jewel Samsung Electronics Co.

"Samsung Electronics is at the core of this event," said Park Ju-gun, president at CEOScore, a private corporate watchdog. "If Lee Jae-yong controls C&T, he can secure control over Samsung Electronics."

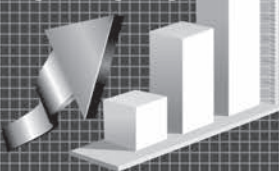
The corporate maneuvering reflects that the Lee family's influence over Samsung Electronics through a life insurance company was at risk as the South Korean parliament is set to pass a law that restricts finance companies from controlling non-finance companies.

Lee, his father Lee Kun-hee

and other family members have a small direct stake in Samsung Electronics but have been able to exert influence through cross shareholdings in affiliated companies, the most significant of which was Samsung Life Insurance. Altogether, they control about 29 percent of Samsung Electronics shares, which is the largest voting bloc.

Lee Kun-hee, 73, who remains chairman at Samsung Electronics, has been hospitalized for more than a year after suffering a heart attack in May, 2014. Lee Jae-yong earlier this month took over his father's roles in two Samsung charitable foundations.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
18,232.02	2,126.06	5,089.36
-53.72	-4.76	-1.43
0.29%	0.22%	0.03%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2768	Hong Kong Dollar	7.753	Philippine Peso	44.7255
British Pound	0.6472	Indian Rupee	63.7514	Singapore Dollar	1.3473
Canadian Dollar	1.2309	Indonesian Rupiah	13202.32	South Korean Won	1100.05
Chinese Yuan	6.204	Japanese Yen	121.8772	Swiss Franc	0.9475
Euro	0.9144	Malaysian Ringgit	3.6133	Taiwan Dollar	30.5626
		New Zealand Dollar	1.367	Thailand Baht	33.6719

In U.S. dollar terms

Nation

Obama pays tribute to fallen service members at Arlington

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday saluted Americans who died in battle, saying the country must “never stop trying to fully repay them” for their sacrifices. He noted it was the first Memorial Day in 14 years without U.S. forces engaged in a major ground war.

Speaking under sunny skies to some 5,000 people in an amphitheater on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the graveyard is “more than a final resting place of heroes.”

“It is a reflection of America itself,” he said, citing racial and religious diversity in the backgrounds of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve “the ideals that bind us as one nation.”

His appearance is an annual rite for presidents at the cemetery nestled among verdant hills overlooking the Potomac



AP President Barack Obama and with the aid of Sgt. 1st Class John C. Wirth lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

River. It came months after the end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan, where the number of stationed troops has been reduced to about 10,000 from a peak of more than 100,000.

His tribute also took place against a backdrop of the increasingly complex U.S.-led effort to help Iraq defeat the Islamic State extremist group, which has been gaining momentum in recent weeks by capturing Ramadi there and taking Palmyra in neighboring Syria.

Obama made no mention of America's participation with other nations in the effort to stop the Islamic State. His effort there has come under intensifying criticism since the fall of Ramadi with lawmakers calling for a bigger show of American force there, including ground troops.

Vice President Joe Biden spoke Monday with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and pledged full U.S. support for Iraqi efforts to reclaim territory from the Islamic State, includ-

ing by speeding up the provision of U.S. training and equipment, the White House said.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter had said in a nationally broadcast interview aired Sunday that Iraqi forces “showed no will to fight” and fled as the Islamic State advanced on Ramadi. The White House said in a statement that Biden's call “recognized the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces over the past 18 months in Ramadi and elsewhere.”

In his remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said most of the remaining troops should be removed from Afghanistan by the end of 2016.

He recognized the more than 2,200 “patriots” who sacrificed themselves in Afghanistan, including the final two to be killed before the U.S. combat mission ended late last year. He also recognized the first American killed during the “new mission” to train Afghan forces, an Army medic who died in April.

Earlier, troops stationed in that war-ravaged country observed a moment of silence in honor of fallen comrades there.

The Arlington observance was among a host of Memorial Day events nationwide featuring parades, picnics and tributes.

California looks to Australia for tips on surviving drought

SYDNEY (AP)—California has turned to the world's driest inhabited continent for solutions to its longest and sharpest drought on record.

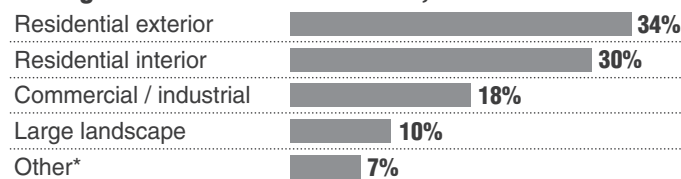
Australia, the land poet Dorothea Mackellar dubbed “a sunburnt country,” suffered a torturous drought from the late 1990s through 2012. Now Californians are facing their own “Big Dry,” and looking Down Under to see how they coped.

Australia also faced tough water restrictions—along with dying cattle, barren fields and monstrous wildfires that killed 173 people. But when the rains finally returned, Australians had fundamentally changed how they handle this precious resource. They treat water as a commodity to be conserved and traded, and carefully measure what's available and how it's being used. Efficiency programs cut their average daily

Cities' water consumption

The largest portion of urban water consumption in California is outdoor use. Residential and large landscape watering together make up 44%.

Average California urban water use, 1998-2010



*Includes: Groundwater recharge, conveyance and energy production
Source: California Department of Water Resources
Graphic: Tribune News Service

use to 55 gallons, compared with 105 gallons per day for each Californian.

The lesson: long droughts are here to stay, so societies had better plan ahead, says drought-policy expert Linda Botterill of the University of Canberra.

“We can expect longer, deeper and more severe droughts in Australia, and I believe the same applies in the U.S.,” Botterill says.

“As a result, we need to develop strategies that are not knee-jerk responses, but that are planned risk-management strategies.”

California water officials now routinely cite Australia's experience. Felicia Marcus, who runs California's Water Resources Control Board, can describe the stormwater-capture system watering soccer fields in Perth in minute detail.

But Californians may find Australia's medicine tough to swallow.

Australians are accustomed to living in a dry land, expect government intervention in a crisis and largely support making sacrifices for the common good. For much of their history, many Californians have enjoyed abundant water, or were able to divert enough of it to turn deserts green, and lawyers make sure property rights remain paramount.

From an Australian perspective, California's drought response has been “absolutely pathetic,” says Daniel Connell, an environmental policy expert at The Australian National University.

Australia's drought response was hardly perfect, and some of its gains might be slipping away, but Americans suffering their own “Big Dry” may benefit from some comparisons:

Source: Cleveland reaches deal with Justice on policing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The city of Cleveland has reached a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department over a pattern of excessive force and civil rights violations by the police department, a senior federal law enforcement official said Monday.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly of the settlement ahead of the official announcement, expected this week, and spoke on condition of anonymity.

News of the settlement comes two days after a white police officer was acquitted of manslaughter for firing the final 15 rounds of a 137-shot police barrage through the windshield of a car carrying two black, unarmed suspects in 2012.

The suspects' backfiring vehicle had been mistaken for a gunshot, leading to a high-speed chase involving 62 police cruisers. Once the suspects were cornered, 13 officers fired at the car.

The chase prompted an 18-month Justice Department investigation. In a report released in December, the department required the city to work with community leaders and other officials to devise a plan to reform the police department, which a judge must approve and an independent monitor will oversee.

Justice Department spokeswoman Dena Iverson did not return messages seeking comment. Messages to a Cleveland

city spokesman and the police department seeking comment weren't immediately returned.

The specifics of the settlement, first reported by The New York Times, were not available Monday.

The Justice Department's report spared no one in the police chain of command. The worst examples of excessive force involved patrol officers who endangered lives by shooting at suspects and cars, hit people over the head with guns and used stun guns on handcuffed suspects.

Supervisors and police higher-ups received some of the report's most searing criticism. The Justice Department said officers were poorly trained

and some didn't know how to implement use-of-force policies. The report also said officers are ill-equipped.

Mobile computers that are supposed to be in patrol cars often don't work and, even when they do, officers don't have access to essential department databases, according to the report.

The agency said supervisors encouraged some of the bad behavior and often did little to investigate it. Some told the Justice Department that they often wrote their reports to make an officer look as good as possible, the federal agency said. The department found that only six officers had been suspended for improper use of force over a three-year period.

ACROSS THE NATION

Protester leaves Shell ship north of Seattle; 1 remains

SEATTLE (AP)—One of two protesters who affixed themselves to an Arctic oil-drilling support ship parked north of Seattle left the vessel Sunday, but the other remained suspended from its anchor chain in an effort to draw attention to climate change and the risks an oil spill could pose in the remote waters off northwestern Alaska. Protester Matt Fuller requested help getting down from the Arctic Challenger in Bellingham Bay about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, and the Coast Guard said it obliged. The Arctic Challenger is part of a fleet Royal Dutch Shell expects to use to conduct exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea off northwestern Alaska this summer—plans that have drawn large protests in Seattle, where a massive, floating drill rig is being prepared for the excursion.

Cause of death of child in swing undetermined after autopsy

BALTIMORE (AP)—An autopsy has been completed on a child who was found dead in a park swing as his mother pushed him, but the cause of death remains under investigation, police said Monday. Charles County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Diane Richardson said that there were no findings on the cause or manner of death of

the 3-year-old found Friday in La Plata, Maryland. Richardson said further investigation and toxicology tests are needed. The 24-year-old mother was taken to a hospital Friday. Richardson said she remained hospitalized Monday. Officials haven't identified her. They've said she may have been at the park for hours before the boy was discovered.

Police: 3 kids injured when waterspout uproots bounce house

MIAMI (AP)—A waterspout uprooted an inflatable bounce house with three children inside it on a South Florida beach Monday, but the youngsters were ejected before it flew above palm trees across four lanes of traffic into a parking lot, police said. All three children were tossed to the sand while another unoccupied bounce house nearby also took flight westward over the state road and landed in the same lot, authorities added. The children were injured, but alert and conscious when they were taken to a hospital, Fort Lauderdale Police spokesman Keven Dupree said. On Monday evening, police issued a statement that two of the children were treated for minor fractures and released while a third was in stable condition and being held overnight for observation at Broward Health Medical Center. Their identities weren't released.

Asia

Taiwan proposes plan to ease South China Sea tensions

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou laid out a plan Tuesday to ease tensions in a vast, resource-rich Asian ocean where China has chafed against its neighbors by expanding islets with landfill to solidify its claims in the region.

Ma's plan calls for setting aside sovereignty disputes over the South China Sea and jointly exploring for resources.

Taiwan has not been a high-profile player in the disputes in the South China Sea, although it uses roughly the same historical basis for its claim as China, and Ma's initiative appeared aimed at shoring up foreign policy credentials at home.

"We emphasize that whereas sovereignty can't be divided, resources can be shared," Ma said in his speech Tuesday at an Asia-Pacific research forum in Taipei.

■ ■ ■
BEIJING (AP)—China is comparing its controversial island reclamation project in the South China Sea to ordinary construction going on in other parts of the country, such as the building of roads and apartments.

Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun on Tuesday said the issue has been exaggerated by those seeking an excuse to take unspecified actions in response—a clear reference to the United States.

Yang's comments follow an incident last week in which a Chinese navy dispatcher warned-off a US Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work. The U.S. crew replied that they were in international airspace.

Yang said surveillance activities have been growing in frequency but declined to say what additional measures China might take in response.



A Filipino environmental activist sits behind a sign during a rally outside the Chinese Consulate in suburban Makati, south of Manila, Philippines on Monday, May 11, 2015 to protest against the continued building of infrastructures along a disputed group of islands known as the Spratlys in the South China Sea.

■ ■ ■
Taiwan, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines claim all or parts of the 3.5 million-square-kilometer (1.4 million square-mile) South China Sea. The ocean ranges from Taiwan's southern tip southwest to Singapore.

In recent months China has made other claimants and their common ally the United States bristle by landfilling tiny islets, a way to extend its reach. The tropical sea is rich in oil, natural gas and fisheries as well as major international marine shipping routes.

In a sign of recent tensions, Beijing filed a formal complaint

Rohingya seek better life in Malaysia, but reality is stark

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia has been a sort of promised land for Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar. The tens of thousands who endured perilous journeys to get here find more work opportunities than in Indonesia and a more Muslim-friendly environment than in Thailand.

But in the 25 years since Hamid Hussein Abul Khair arrived, that promise has been worn away by the statelessness and poverty that have never left him.

Rohingya face a tenuous existence here, unable to legally work because Malaysia, like

Thailand and Indonesia, doesn't recognize asylum seekers and refugees and hasn't signed the U.N. Refugee Convention. They mostly scrape by on dirty or dangerous jobs shunned by Malaysians, live in squalid conditions and have no access to free health care and state-run schools.

For many Rohingya, even living on the margins of Malaysian society is a step forward. But those who have been here for years yearn for something better—at least for their children.

"God willing, we can make

a living here. We are thankful to Malaysia but what future do we have? My children can't get citizenship, they have no formal education and they can't get proper jobs," Hamid, 54, said in his austere apartment on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

Denied citizenship by Myanmar and chased off their land in repeated outbreaks of communal violence, the 1.3 million Rohingya there have been identified by the U.N. as one of the world's most persecuted minorities. Some 140,000 have been

displaced from their homes, and many live in camps. Myanmar regards them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, even though many have lived in the country for generations.

The desperation of the Rohingya has been highlighted in recent weeks by boatloads of people from Myanmar and Bangladesh stranded in Malacca Strait waters after their traffickers abandoned them near the end of risky 1,700-kilometer (1,000-mile) voyages amid a clampdown by local authorities.

Malaysia: Human traffickers' camps had 139 suspected graves

WANG KELIAN, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian authorities said Monday a cluster of abandoned jungle camps used by human traffickers contained 139 suspected graves as well as barbed-wire pens likely used to cage migrants, shedding more light on a regional trade that preyed on some of Southeast Asia's most desperate people.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said forensics experts were exhuming the suspected graves found at 28 vacated camps in the hilly jungle area on the border with Thailand where trafficking syndicates were known to operate.

"It is a very sad scene," Khalid told reporters at a police outpost in the town of Wang Kelian several kilometers (miles) from the camps, one of which appeared large enough to hold about 300 people. "I am shocked. We never expected this kind of cruelty."

At one forest camp, police found several parts of a decomposed body inside a wooden pen. The parts were placed into white bags and brought to Wang Kelian, and district police chief Rizani Ismail said they would be examined by forensics experts. Police said they would begin digging up other suspected graves—mounds of earth, covered with leaves and marked by sticks—on Tuesday.

"We have discovered 139 of what we believe to be graves," Khalid said. "We believe they are victims of human trafficking."

Prime Minister Najib Razak, in Tokyo on an official visit, vowed to find the perpetrators. "I am deeply concerned with graves found on Malaysian soil purportedly connected to people smuggling. We will find those responsible," he said on Twitter early Monday.

The finding in the northern

Malaysian state of Perlis follows a similar discovery earlier this month by police in Thailand who unearthed dozens of bodies from shallow graves on the Thai side of the border. Thai police Maj. Gen. Puthichart Ekkachan said 36 bodies had been found there in seven abandoned camps.

The discoveries have exposed hidden networks of jungle camps run by human smugglers, who have for years held countless desperate people captive while extorting ransoms from their families. Most of those who have fallen victim to the trafficking networks are members of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim community or impoverished migrants from Bangladesh, part of a wave of people who have fled their homelands to reach countries like Malaysia, where they hope to find work or live freely.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official: 19 police, 7 soldiers dead in ongoing siege

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban gunmen have surrounded a police compound in the volatile southern province of Helmand after killing 19 policemen and seven soldiers in an ongoing siege, a senior police officer said on Monday from inside the compound. Napas Khan, the police chief in the Naw Zad district, told The Associated Press by telephone that the insurgents had advanced to within 20 meters (65 feet) of the compound after seizing police vehicles and weapons and blocking all roads out of Naw Zad. "We need an immediate response from the government," Khan said. He said the attack started at before dawn on Monday when the insurgents overran multiple police checkpoints across the district.

Rest home fire in central China kills 38

BEIJING (AP)—A fire that swept through a rest home in central China killed 38 people and injured six, Chinese authorities said Tuesday. The fire broke out Monday night in an apartment building being used as a privately run rest home

in the city of Pingdingshan in Henan province, according to a statement from the province's work safety administration. Two of the injured were in serious condition, the statement said. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that a rescue operation was still underway Tuesday morning and the cause of the fire was unclear.

Bangladesh bans Islamist group accused of killing bloggers

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh on Monday banned a radical Islamist group accused of attacking and killing atheist bloggers and writers. The Ministry of Home Affairs said the Ansarullah Bangla Team was formally banned in response to a request by police because it has threatened and killed bloggers, writers and other activists. Junior Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the decision was made under the anti-terrorism law. A police report said the group follows al-Qaida and has been active in Muslim-majority Bangladesh since 2008, but has widened its influence since 2013, when it allegedly killed blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider near his home in Dhaka.

World

Twister kills 13 in Mexico border city; 12 missing in Texas

CIUDAD ACUNA, Mexico (AP)—A tornado raged through a city on the U.S.-Mexico border Monday, destroying homes, flinging cars like matchsticks and ripping an infant from its mother's arms. At least 13 people were killed, authorities said.

In Texas, 12 people were reported missing after the vacation home they were staying in was swept away by rushing floodwaters in a small town popular with tourists.

The baby was also missing after the twister that hit Ciudad Acuna, a city of 125,000 across from Del Rio, Texas, sent its infant carrier flying. Rescue workers began digging through the rubble of damaged homes in a race to find victims.

The twister hit a seven-block area, which Victor Zamora, interior secretary of the northern state of Coahuila, described as "devastated."

Mayor Evaristo Perez Rivera said 300 people were being treated at local hospitals, and up to 200 homes had been completely destroyed. Three people were unaccounted for.

"There's nothing standing, not walls, not roofs," said Edgar Gonzalez, a spokesman for the city government, describing some of the destroyed homes in a 3-square kilometer (1 square mile) stretch.

By midday, 13 people were confirmed dead—10 adults and three infants.

Family members and neighbors gathered around a pickup truck where the bodies of a woman and two children were laid out in the truck's bed, covered with sheets. Two relatives reached down to touch the bodies, covered their eyes and wept.

Photos from the scene showed cars with their hoods torn off, resting upended against single-story houses. One car's frame was bent around the gate of a house. A bus was seen flipped and crumpled on a roadway.

The twister struck not long after daybreak, around the time buses were preparing to take children to school, Zamora said.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said he planned to travel to Acuna later in the day



AP
People stand near a destroyed vehicle after a powerful tornado swept past in Ciudad Acuna, northern Mexico, Monday, May 25, 2015.

with officials from government agencies.

In the U.S., a line of storms that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes dumped record rainfall on parts of the Plains and Midwest,

spawning tornadoes and causing major flooding that forced at least 2,000 Texans from their homes.

Witnesses reported seeing the swollen Blanco River push the vacation house off its founda-

tion and smash it into a bridge. Only pieces of the home have been found, according to Hays County Judge Bert Cobb.

One person who was rescued from the home told workers that the other 12 inside were all connected to two families, Cobb said.

The house was in Wimberley Valley, an area known for its bed-and-breakfast inns and

weekend rental cottages.

Dana Campbell, a retired engineer who lives on a bluff above the river, said the floodwaters left behind damage that resembled the path of a tornado "as far as the eye can see."

The storms were blamed for three deaths Saturday and Sunday, including two in Oklahoma and one in Texas, where a man's body was recovered from a flooded area along the Blanco River, which rose 26 feet in an hour and created huge piles of debris.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott flew over parts of the Blanco on Monday, a day after heavy rains pushed the river into surrounding neighborhoods.

Abbott said the storms had "relentless tsunami-type power." He urged communities downstream to monitor flood levels and take the threat seriously.

The governor added 24 counties to his disaster declaration, bringing the total to 37, most in the eastern half of the state.

UN officials didn't follow up on sex abuse claims for months

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—For months, the U.N.'s top human rights officials knew about allegations of child sexual abuse by French soldiers in Central African Republic, collected by their own staff. But they didn't follow up because they assumed French authorities were handling it, statements marked "strictly confidential" show, even as France pressed the U.N. for more information about the case.

In a signed statement obtained by The Associated Press, the deputy high commissioner for human rights also says that her colleague who first informed French authorities last July did it because he didn't think the recently created U.N.

peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic would act on the allegations.

A year after the U.N. first heard allegations from children as young as 9 that French soldiers had sexually abused them, sometimes in exchange for food, it seems that the only person who has been punished is the U.N. staffer who told French authorities.

The deputy high commissioner, Flavia Pansieri, says she was distracted from the case by other issues, including budget cuts, from last fall until early March, when her boss, the high commissioner, brought up the case.

"I regret to say that in the context of those very hectic days, I

failed to follow up on the CAR situation," Pansieri says in the statement dated March 26. She adds that "both the HC and I knew that on CAR there was an ongoing process initiated by the French authorities to bring perpetrators to justice. I take full responsibility for not having given the matter the necessary attention."

The Paris prosecutor's office this month, however, blamed the U.N. "hierarchy" for taking more than six months to supply answers to its questions. The office wanted to speak with a U.N. human rights staffer who had interviewed some of the children, saying she was willing to talk.

The U.N. finally handed over

written answers on April 29, the Paris prosecutor's office said - the same day that the Guardian newspaper first made the French and U.N. inquiries public.

French soldiers had been tasked with protecting civilians in Central African Republic from vicious violence between Christians and Muslims. Thousands of scared people had crammed into a camp for displaced people in the capital, Bangui. Residents have told the AP that soldiers offered cookies, other food or bottles of water in exchange for sodomy or oral sex.

It is still not clear where the accused soldiers are now. France has not announced any arrests.

Spain leader blames austerity, scandals for election result

MADRID (AP)—Spain's prime minister acknowledged Monday he was disappointed with his party's showing in local elections, which he attributed largely to austerity measures his government was compelled to take during Europe's recent debt crisis and a recent string of political scandals.

The elections Sunday in many Spanish cities and regions dealt a serious blow to Mariano Rajoy's governing Popular Party. Two new parties carved out kingmaker roles by capitalizing on voter disaffection with established parties for their handling of the economy among other reasons.

Though the conservative Popular Party won the most

votes overall, capturing 27 percent of votes cast, it lost the absolute control it had in eight of the 13 regions, including in its traditional power bases of Madrid and Valencia. The party lost 2.5 million voters since the last local elections four years ago.

Rajoy, who is also the Popular Party's leader, said economic recovery and job creation are priorities before Spain's general election this fall. A nearly eight-year economic crisis has left the country with a 24 percent unemployment rate.

Rajoy also accepted that corruption scandals involving his party had eroded public support.

"We have to get closer to the Spanish people and communicate

better with them," Rajoy told a news conference after a meeting of his party's national executive committee. He said he had no plans to reshuffle his Cabinet.

The opposition Socialists, who came in second with 25 percent of the vote, saw their total number of supporters drop half a million to 5.6 million in the ballot for seats in more than 8,100 town halls and 13 of 17 regional governments.

But the left-wing We Can party and the centrist Citizens party, two organizations that only began operating on a national level last year, finished a strong third and fourth.

We Can leader Pablo Iglesias said Monday the result spelled

the end of the two-party system that has dominated Spain for nearly 40 years.

"The message is that 2015 will be the year of change," he said.

Between them, the Popular Party and the Socialists only garnered 52 percent of the nationwide vote Sunday, down from 65 percent in the 2011 election, but they did manage to avert the political meltdown some had predicted.

The conservatives appear to be losing their 20-year grip on Madrid's prestigious town hall, where a left-wing coalition of new parties, including We Can, is best positioned to install their candidate for mayor.

Thousands flock to mass funeral for Saudi terrorist attack victims

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Tens of thousands of mourners poured into the streets of eastern Saudi Arabia on Monday to attend a mass funeral for victims of last week's suicide bombing attack at a Shiite mosque that was claimed by the Islamic State group, attendees said.

Chanting religious slogans and carrying banners denouncing sectarianism, the mourners made their way with the victims' bodies along a route to a cemetery in the village of al-Qudeeh, in the oil-rich eastern Qatif region.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Friday's attack and warned of more "black days" to come for Saudi Shiites. Saudi officials have confirmed the group was behind the blast, which officials said killed 21 people. It was the country's deadliest terrorist attack since 2004. King Salman has vowed to punish those responsible.

Like many ultraconservative Sunnis in Saudi Arabia, the IS group considers Shiites to be heretics. The kingdom's minority Shiites have long complained of discrimination in the country, which is ruled by the ultraconserva-

tive Wahhabi interpretation of Sunni Islam.

Monday's procession was a chance to mourn and to speak out.

"It was a normal funeral on one side, but on the other side it was a political rally," said attendee Fadel al-Hashim, a software engineer from Dammam. "There has always been some kind of encouragement toward hatred and sectarianism toward the minority Shiites. The message was: this has to stop."

Participants described a strong sense of solidarity, with volunteers handing out cold drinks along the procession route.

Mourners were bused in from surrounding towns and villages, including al-Ahsa, where eight Shiite worshippers were killed in a shooting attack in November that was also blamed on the IS group. Some came from as far as neighboring Bahrain and Kuwait.

"People were working together to make this funeral successful. They feel this should not be forgotten," said Salam Almarhoon, a law student from Safwa. "We see the sword on our neck."

Life & Style

Some Native Hawaiians disapprove of 'Aloha' movie title

HONOLULU (AP)—Some Native Hawaiians disapprove of the name of a movie filmed and set in Hawaii, saying that titling it “Aloha” is a disrespectful misappropriation of culture and simplifies a word that’s rich with meaning.

The Cameron Crowe film starring Bradley Cooper, Rachel McAdams and Emma Stone, opens Friday, with a screening in Honolulu three days before. The concerns are based largely on a trailer that depicts a military-themed love-story that appears devoid of a genuine connection to Hawaiian culture.

Sony Pictures did not comment on the concerns, pointing The Associated Press to an on-line behind-the-scenes piece that shows Stone’s character saying, “this place has a lot of mana,” using a Hawaiian word that can mean power. There are shots of hula and interviews with Dennis “Bumpy” Kanahele, a Native Hawaiian sovereignty activist who appears in the movie.

“If you have a romantic comedy about the military in Hawaii ... but a title that says ‘Aloha,’ I can only guess that they’ll bastardize the word,” said Walter Ritte, a Native Hawaiian activist on the island of Molokai. “They’re taking our sacred word ... and they’re going to

make a lot of money off of it.”

In the Hawaiian language, aloha is not just a greeting or a word to convey love. It has other meanings including, compassion, mercy, grace.

“Aloha actually comes from two Hawaiian words: alo—which means the front of a person, the part of our bodies that we share and take in people. And ha, which is our breath,” Janet Mock, a Native Hawaiian, said on her MSNBC Shift show “So Popular!” where she panned the title. “When we are in each other’s presence with the front of our bodies, we are exchanging the breath of life.”

The trailer is an example of “typical Hollywood,” where “Hawaii is the verdant background for white fantasies,” said Ty Kawika Tengan, chair of the ethnic studies department at the University of Hawaii’s Manoa campus.

“It’s been so appropriated in so many different ways—made into a commodity, made into a slogan,” he said of the word aloha. “It gets so divorced from



In this Saturday, May 16, 2015, file photo, U.S actors Emma Stone, left, and Bradley Cooper pose for photographers at a photo call for the film, “Aloha,” in London.

important indigenous Hawaiian context. ... It’s romanticized, literally, into a romantic comedy.”

During filming in 2013, the movie was untitled. State Film Commissioner Donne Dawson said if she had known the title, she would have advised against it.

“I certainly would have seen it as an opportunity to counsel them ... and then allow them to figure it out for themselves,” she said.

The Hawaii Film Office is a state agency that promotes the industry and administers per-

mits and tax credits. The office must also balance those duties with protecting resources and communities, said Dawson,

who is Native Hawaiian.

“We’ve had a century of misrepresentation, of misunderstanding, of miscommunication of

YouTube’s 1st decade shows sharing free content pays off

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—YouTube’s legacy extends beyond its pioneering role in the Internet’s video revolution. The 10-year-old site provided a stage for exhibitionists, narcissists and activists to broadcast their opinions, show off their talents, expose abuses or just pass along their favorite clips of movies, TV shows, music, cute kittens and other interests.

The rampant sharing on YouTube quickly attracted a massive audience that loved watching what they wanted when they wanted, even if much of the material was being contributed by amateurs.

YouTube’s rapid rise demonstrated that influential media hubs could be built around free content supplied by an Internet service’s users. Other companies that went on to embrace a similar strategy included Facebook, which limited its online social network to college and high school students until opening up the service to anyone 13 or older beginning in September 2006. That was just before YouTube’s whirlwind success culminated in its \$1.76 billion sale to Google Inc.

In the spirit of sharing popularized by YouTube, here are a few moments to remember from the site’s first decade:

Major milestones

YouTube’s potential to transform people’s viewing habits became apparent during the autumn of 2005 when a Nike soccer shoe ad called “Touch of Gold” became the first video on the site to be watched 1 million times.

The dance video “Gangnam Style” became the first YouTube video to surpass 1 billion views in 2012. The clip from South Korean rapper Psy still reigns as

YouTube’s most-watched video at 2.3 billion views. The only other video to break the billion barrier so far has been “Baby” by Justin Bieber, but YouTube expects clips by singers Katy Perry, Shakira, Taylor Swift, Meghan Trainor and Miley Cyrus to eventually join the exclusive club.

In 2007, about six hours of video footage was being transferred to YouTube every minute. Now, about 300 hours of video is uploaded to YouTube each minute, or about 432,000 hours per day. That means it would take about 49 years to watch all the videos posted on YouTube on a typical day.

Video villains

Most TV and movie executives initially reviled YouTube, contending the site’s early success stemmed from its lax controls against video pirates posting copyrighted clips. Even Google initially viewed the video site as a “rogue enabler” of content theft,” according to internal documents that surfaced in a copyright lawsuit filed against YouTube.

YouTube steadfastly denied wrongdoing and, as a defense, pointed to its policy of removing pirated video whenever asked by a copyright holder.

Shortly after being bought by Google, YouTube built an automated detection system that prevents most unauthorized clips from appearing on its site.

The big windfall

In need of additional computing power and legal protection against the pirating claims, YouTube’s founders decided to sell in 2006. They negotiated the Google deal in a series of meetings in a Denny’s restaurant in Palo Alto, California, instead of YouTube’s dinky office

who we are,” she said of Hawaii’s role in the movies that dates to 1913. “We have fallen prey to the stereotypical ideas ... that people have about Hawaii. It’s not based in truth and it’s not authentic.”

In 1931, another “Aloha” movie told of “a half-caste island girl” who “refuses to follow tradition and marry a fellow islander, instead falling in love with a white man and heir to an American fortune,” according to IMDb.com. There also was “Aloha Summer” in 1988 and “Aloha, Bobby and Rose” in 1975.

The title alone would not have been a basis for denying permits. “It’s not my job to basically tell people what they can do with regard to the creative,” Dawson said. “I can tell them what to do and not do when it comes to filming on public land.”

The producers wanted to film in Waianae, home to a high concentration of Native Hawaiians, for scenes set in Afghanistan. Dawson counseled producers that Waianae residents might have negative feelings about filming on homestead lands.

Lawyer says allegations B.B. King was poisoned ‘ridiculous’

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two B.B. King heirs who’ve been most outspoken about the blues legend’s care in his final days are accusing King’s two closest aides of poisoning him, but the attorney for King’s estate is calling the claims ridiculous.

Three doctors determined that King was appropriately cared-for, and King received 24-hour care and monitoring by medical professionals “up until the time that he peacefully passed away in his sleep,” attorney Brent Bryson told the AP on Monday.

Daughters Karen Williams and Patty King allege that family members were prevented from visiting while King’s business manager, LaVerne Toney, and his personal assistant, Myron Johnson, hastened their father’s death.

Toney is named in King’s will as executor of an estate that according to court documents filed by lawyers for some of King’s heirs could total tens of millions of dollars.

Johnson was at B.B. King’s bedside when he died May 14 in hospice care at home in Las Vegas at age 89. No family members were present.

“I believe my father was poisoned and that he was administered foreign substances,” Patty King and Williams say in identically worded sections of affidavits

provided to The Associated Press by their lawyer, Larissa Drohobyczer.

“I believe my father was murdered,” they say.

Toney and Johnson each declined to comment on the accusations.

“They’ve been making allegations all along. What’s new?” said Toney, who worked for King for 39 years and had power-of-attorney over his affairs.

Las Vegas police homicide detectives are investigating, Lt. Ray Steiber said Monday. He declined to provide details.

The allegations come days after a public viewing in Las Vegas drew more than 1,000 fans and mourners and a weekend family-and-friends memorial drew 350. A Beale Street procession and memorial are scheduled Wednesday in Memphis, Tennessee, followed by a Friday viewing and Saturday burial in King’s hometown of Indianola, Mississippi.

Clark County Coroner John Fudenberg said Monday the investigation shouldn’t delay King’s final trip home to the Mississippi Delta.

Fudenberg said an autopsy was performed Sunday and King’s body was then returned to a Las Vegas mortuary. Test results will take up to eight weeks to obtain, and shouldn’t be affected by the

fact that King’s body had been embalmed, he said.

“This is extremely disrespectful to B.B. King,” Bryson said on Monday. “He did not want invasive medical procedures. He made the decision to return home for hospice care instead of staying in a hospital. These unfounded allegations have caused Mr. King to undergo an autopsy, which is exactly what he didn’t want.”

Drohobyczer said she represents Williams, Patty King and most of King’s nine other adult children and heirs.

“The family is sticking together ... to oust Ms. Toney based on her illegal conduct, conflicts of interest and self-dealing,” she said. She alleged that Toney hastened King’s death by “misconduct, or by failing to properly attend to his medical needs.”

An affidavit from Patty King, who used to live at King’s home, says she saw Johnson administer to King two drops of an unknown substance on his tongue during evenings for several months before his death, and that Toney never told her what the substance was.

Bryson called Drohobyczer’s claims ridiculous.

“I hope they have a factual basis that they can demonstrate for their defamatory and libelous allegations,” he said.

located above a pizza parlor in nearby San Mateo. The purchase price was originally set at \$1.65 billion in Google stock, but the value of the shares had climbed by the time the deal closed in November 2006 to set the final price at \$1.76 billion.

The biggest winners were co-founders Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, who collectively received nearly \$700 million in Google stock. Hurley now runs a mobile video site called MixBitApp. Chen is an entrepreneur-in-residence at Google’s venture capital arm. Karim is financing and advising startups at Y Ventures.

YouTube employed fewer than 70 people at the time of the sale, and at least 18 of them became millionaires. Other early investors in the site who pocketed smaller windfalls included TV talk show host Maury Povich and former network TV news broadcaster Forrest Sawyer.

What it’s worth now

Google has never disclosed how much money YouTube brings in or even if the site is profitable. The research firm eMarketer projects YouTube will sell about \$4.3 billion in advertising this year, after subtracting commissions and licensing fees. That would translate into about 7 percent of Google’s projected revenue of \$60 billion this year after subtracting advertising commissions.

If it were an independent company, YouTube likely would be worth at least \$20 billion, based on investors’ assessment of Netflix—the Internet’s leading video subscription service. Netflix currently has a market value of \$37 billion, or about five and half times its projected revenue this year.

Egyptian woman arrested over racy music video

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian authorities have arrested a woman who danced in a racy music video that went viral on the internet and referred her to misdemeanor court for “inciting debauchery.”

The clip, a low-budget production entitled “Hands Off,” or “Sib Eddi” in Egyptian Arabic, contains no nudity but plenty of scantily-clad booty shaking by the woman, Reda el-Fouly, who

dances to the voice of a singer called Mena.

Ahmed Bakly of the Giza prosecution said in a statement that the clip “disrupted morality.” He also ordered the arrest of Wael Elsedeki, who he described as el-Fouly’s boyfriend who had left the country for Tunisia after some social media users called the video scandalous, and a third person involved in the video.

Iconic filmmaker John Waters to receive honorary degree

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—When the Rhode Island School of Design offered iconic filmmaker John Waters an honorary degree, he was surprised. After all, he got thrown out of every school he ever went to.

Known for quirky films that push the boundaries of good taste, including 1972’s outrageous cult classic “Pink Flamingos,” Waters is the keynote speaker at the prestigious art school’s commencement next weekend.

Waters will also receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree; recipients are chosen by the RISD community, and nominations are reviewed by a committee of students, faculty and staff.

“I don’t even know if I got a high school diploma. It’s very peculiar. I feel very flattered,” said Waters, who attended New York University briefly in the 1960s before getting kicked out for smoking marijuana on campus. “I feel like the scarecrow in the ‘Wizard of Oz’ when they give him a brain.”

RISD’s 2015 Honorary Degree Committee cited Waters’ body of films as an “enduring inspiration for RISD students seeking to break boundaries, challenge conventions, and define an expressive style,” said RISD President Rosanne Somerson.

“In the words of one nominator, he ‘embodies the RISD tude galore,’” Somerson said.

Waters will share a stage

with three members of the band Talking Heads—two are RISD alumni—and New Yorker staff writer Adam Gopnik.

Waters has written and directed more than a dozen films over his decades-long career, many of them low-budget movies featuring a cadre of unconventional characters, including drag queen Divine, Waters’ longtime friend and muse. Waters saw mainstream success with 1988’s “Hairspray,” another cult classic that was adapted into a Broadway musical in 2002. He is also a published author and photographer.

“I shouldn’t have been in school. You go to school to figure out what you wanted to do. I knew what I wanted to do,” Waters said. “I wish I had gone to RISD. They would have encouraged my ideas. I could have made ‘Pink Flamingos.’”

Waters does more writing these days than filmmaking: The paperback of his 2014 memoir “Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America” debuts this month. Waters said he was inspired to hitchhike from his native Baltimore to San Francisco because his life is so scheduled and controlled.

“My inspiration has always been the same, which is human behavior I can’t understand, which is always my interest, always has been,” Waters said.

The filmmaker is looking forward to accepting his honorary degree, “Without irony, for one of the few times in my life.”

Agent: ‘Lawrence of Arabia’ star Omar Sharif has Alzheimer’s

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Legendary “Lawrence of Arabia” actor Omar Sharif is battling Alzheimer’s disease, his agent Steve Kenis confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday.

No additional details were provided about the 83-year-old or his care. His son, Tarek Sharif, revealed the diagnosis in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Mundo on May 23.

The Egyptian-born Sharif rose to international stardom with his role in the 1962 epic “Lawrence of Arabia”—Sharif’s first English-language film. He earned an Oscar nomination for his turn as Sherif



Ali in David Lean’s iconic film opposite Peter O’Toole.

Sharif followed the breakthrough performance with the title role in Lean’s “Doctor Zhivago,” co-starring Julie Christie. He then played Fanny Brice’s husband, Nicky Arnstein, in “Funny Girl” alongside Barbra Streisand.

His last completed feature film credits were in 2013.

In this Sept. 10, 2009, file photo, Egyptian actor Omar Sharif gestures during the photo call at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

AP

Rolling Stones kick off ‘Zip Code’ stadium tour in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Rolling Stones launched their “Zip Code” North American tour in San Diego on Sunday with more than two hours of music.

In front of a sold-out crowd at Petco Park, the stalwart foursome rocked hit after hit from their 50-year catalog.

Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts opened with “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” before show opener Gary Clark Jr. joined them for “Bitch” from the band’s “Sticky Fingers” album, which is being reissued this week.

A long catwalk extending

from the stage allowed Jagger to dance, run and skip into the center of the crowd. At one point, he ran full-speed down the catwalk and across the stage.

Songs in the high-energy set included “Honky-Tonk Women,” “Midnight Rambler,” “Gimme Shelter” and “Sympa-

thy for the Devil.”

The chamber choir from California State University, Long Beach, joined the band onstage for “You Can’t Always Get What You Want.” The band closed with “Satisfaction,” for which Jagger donned red glittery tuxedo tails.

The tour next moves to Ohio.



From left, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards perform at The Rolling Stones Zip Code Tour opening night at Petco Park on Sunday, May 24, 2015, in San Diego.

AP

Couple’s tagalong friend is too close for son’s comfort

DEAR ABBY: I’m in my 40s, happily married to my wife, and we have teenage daughters. My parents divorced when I was young and both have been remarried for years.

Over the past 10 years, Dad and his wife have developed a very close “friendship” with a woman I’ll call “Bonnie.” They bought homes next door to each other, travel together, and expect Bonnie to be included in all holiday events. Bonnie has never been married and has no kids, so my parents reason that she would be alone if she’s not with them.

I am not fond of this woman and I don’t like having to include her. My parents never ask if it’s OK if she comes; they just started bringing her years ago and assume she’s welcome. When I have brought up the subject, they got angry.

Our daughters ask how we’re related to Bonnie. When I say she is Grandma and Grandpa’s friend, they roll their eyes because it falls short of describing what is probably a three-way. I’m tired of the situation. What can I do?—FED UP IN PHOENIX

DEAR FED UP: Let your daughters—who are probably more worldly than either you or I—come to their own conclusions about Grandma and Grandpa. Whether they have formed a triad is anybody’s guess, but one thing is clear: They are a package deal. You might be happier if you concentrat-

ed less on what may (or may not) be going on between their sheets. The alternative would be to see your father, stepmother and this woman less often.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband keeps all our financial information, be it bank accounts, statements, savings, investments, etc., away from me. He has been unemployed for more than three years and keeps telling me we need to economize, which I do.

When I ask him to let me know what our finances are, he tells me, “We’re running out of money.” He keeps everything a secret, and when I asked, “What if something terrible happens? What shall I do?” he said, “You will be informed.” What kind of an attitude is that? He says he doesn’t trust me with money because he thinks I’ll spend it all.

We sold our house for more than a million dollars and I never saw a penny in my name, let alone a bank account. I don’t have a job. I’m a full-time student right now. I’m concerned whether I should get a divorce. Your thoughts, Abby?

IN THE DARK IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR IN THE DARK: It would be interesting to know where the money you and your husband are living on is coming from, and how your education is being financed.

It appears your husband is withholding financial informa-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tion as a means of controlling you. I do think you should consult a lawyer, not necessarily to discuss a divorce, but to find out once and for all what your rights are as a wife in the state of New Jersey.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

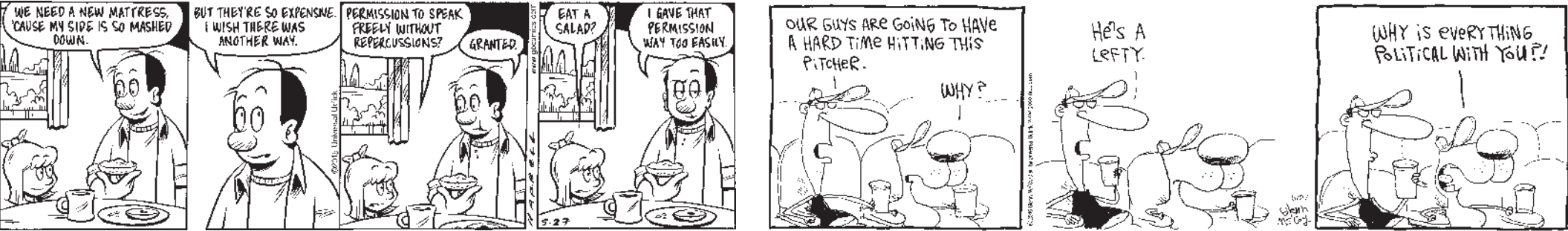


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



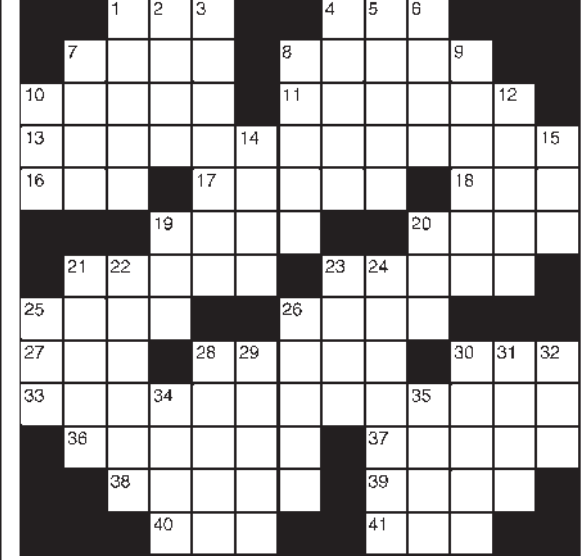
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 27 Tarzan's creator's mono-gram
 - 4 Dietitian's stat
 - 7 Recognize
 - 8 Express Schadenfreude
 - 10 Paris' subway
 - 11 Boarding-house occupant
 - 13 Prankster's time
 - 16 Carnival city
 - 17 Camel's cousin
 - 18 Lemieux milieu
 - 19 Wit-nessed
 - 20 Poolroom supply
 - 21 Steak variety
 - 23 Gene Krupa's set
 - 25 Two-way
 - 26 Battle in the ring
- DOWN**
- 40 Afternoon affair
 - 41 Barbie's companion
 - 14 Run off
 - 15 "Of course"
 - 19 Fa-follower
 - 20 Director's cry
 - 21 "Pre-sumed Innocent" author
 - 22 Mandrill, e.g.
 - 23 Room access
 - 24 Go wild
 - 25 Dict. info
 - 26 Boasts
 - 28 Comment to the audience
 - 29 Sleep-clinic study
 - 30 Sheets and such
 - 31 Second-hand
 - 32 Obtain
 - 34 LummoX
 - 35 Block-head

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	O	C	K	S	C	I	T	A	M	P
C	H	C	W	E	A	T	A	R	I	A
A	I	D	A	C	R	O	C	K	E	T
R	O	Y	C	O	T	T	F	F	A	I
H	A	S	M	A	O					
F	R	E	A	K	B	U	R	N	E	T
C	H	A	S	A	D	E	O	N		
C	O	R	B	E	T	T	I	S	L	E
A	N	Y	A	L	L					
A	M	I	N	O	E	L	L	I	O	T
M	E	G	A	W	A	T	G	R	F	W
I	H	O	N	D	N	A	H	E	R	O
S	E	R	A	O	A	R	T	O	M	S

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 25; Jack McBrayer, 42; Paul Bettany, 44; Louis Gossett Jr., 79.

Happy Birthday: Work on self-discipline and quitting bad habits. Focus on getting healthy and making the most of your life. Distance yourself from the people in your life who cloud you with negativity. Learn from past mistakes and indulgences. Spring into action and follow through with positive and progressive plans that will encourage a better life. Your numbers are 7, 9, 20, 24, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Restlessness will lead to personal problems. Spend more time checking out vocational options and researching what you require to move in a direction that can bring in more cash and stimulate you mentally. Boredom is the enemy. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on getting along with your peers. Take care of debts that have been weighing you down. A resourceful approach and some practical and well-thought-out money management advice will put you on top. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put a little muscle behind your mouth and turn talk into a reality. Someone will point out your shortcomings if you don't give your all. An emotional situation with a child or elder must be handled with kid gloves. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Find a way to make your surroundings more user-friendly and comfortable. Your efforts will be appreciated and your nerves less frazzled

if you feel at peace when you are at home. Romance will lead to a close bond with someone special. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out what everyone else is up to. Something or someone will stand out and lead you in a new direction. Personal advancement will raise your confidence. Don't hold back if you have something to contribute. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Everything you pursue will depend on precision, knowledge and expertise. Expect to be criticized by someone who is trying to make you look bad. Stick to the methods that work and to the people you know you can trust. Be productive, not argumentative. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll make a difference if you speak up and take action. Conversations will lead to new beginnings. Ignore people who display jealous tendencies. Don't get involved in anything that could damage your reputation. Work alone and take all the credit. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will come across an interesting prospect. Get involved in an event that will help you meet other creative people. Look for insights and ideas as to how you can improve your appearance or talents. Romance is highlighted. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have plenty to deal with. Take note of what others say and do and use diplomacy to avoid a controversial situation that can make you look bad. Change is good, but only if it's based on honesty and good intentions. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Contain your emotions and give yourself time to absorb what others tell you. Time is on your side, so don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision. If someone pushes you, back away and move on. Romance is in the stars. **
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be a participant and have a little fun. A change of scenery will stimulate your mind and give rise to all sorts of interesting ideas and plans that could raise your standard of living. Think big, but don't go over budget. ***
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You are best to work alone if you want to avoid disagreements. An emotional matter will leave you thinking about what you want to do next and whom you want to spend time with. Don't let anyone limit your options. ***

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, proactive and passionate. You are a perfectionist.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					1	3	7	6
	1	9		6			4	
	2		7			9		
		6			9			
	4				8			
5			1	3		4		
8		4			3		1	7
3	7					5	9	
1						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	5	6	1	9	3	2	8
8	3	9	5	2	7	4	1	6
1	6	2	4	8	3	9	7	5
6	1	8	7	3	4	2	5	9
9	2	3	8	5	1	6	4	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	1	8	3
2	8	1	3	7	6	5	9	4
7	9	6	2	4	5	8	3	1
3	5	4	1	9	8	7	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/27

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELECTRIC FEELS Solution: 9 letters

S	H	C	R	E	I	O	N	S	M	A	E	R	T	S
U	A	E	G	G	K	K	Z	T	R	E	H	O	T	
C	N	R	W	R	N	C	A	R	P	G	R	D	X	A
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Harden helps Rockets stay alive, beat Warriors, 128-115



HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden was not happy after a poor performance in Houston's embarrassing loss to Golden State in Game 3.

Coach Kevin McHale told him the best thing to do was take that frustration out on the other team.

Harden did just that, scoring a playoff career-high 45 points as the Rockets led from start to finish to avoid elimination in the Western Conference finals with a 128-115 victory over the Warriors on Monday night.

"James had a phenomenal game," McHale said.

The Rockets had a big lead after tying a playoff record with 45 points in the first quarter before Stephen Curry landed on his head in a nasty spill midway through the second and missed about 12 minutes.

Curry said he went through the concussion protocol before returning.

"It was all minor stuff compared to how it looked," Curry said. "But I'll get some good rest (Monday night) and be ready to go ... since it happened to now, nothing has gotten worse."

His first field goal after returning came on a 3-pointer that got Golden State within six points with less than 8 1/2 minutes remaining. But Harden, who had 17 points in the fourth quarter, scored the next seven as part of 10 straight by Houston to push the lead to 114-98.

"I always want to take it out on my opponent in a good way," Harden said. "Just being aggressive, taking shots, getting to the basket, not really forcing anything and allowing the game to come to me."

Klay Thompson had 24 points and Curry added 23 for Golden State, which moved a win away from its first trip to the NBA Finals since 1975 after routing Houston 115-80 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead.

But the Warriors couldn't put the Rockets away and will try again at home in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Houston bounced back from a 3-1 deficit to the Clippers in the conference semifinals. But they face a much bigger challenge in this series, as no team in NBA history has won a playoff series after trailing 3-0.

Dwight Howard had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and received a flagrant 1 foul early in the third quarter after throwing an elbow at Andrew Bogut's head. He would be suspended by accumulation of flagrant foul points if the NBA upgrades it to a flagrant 2 after review.

"I hope not," Howard said when asked about that possibility. "But there's nothing I can do about it at this point. It's never my intention to hurt



AP
Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Monday, May 25, 2015, in Houston.

anybody on the floor. My reaction was to try to get him off me, but I can't react that way."

The Warriors made 20 3-pointers and Houston had 17 to set an NBA record for most 3-pointers combined in a playoff game.

The Warriors used the Hack-A-Shaq technique on Josh Smith and got two 3-pointers from Curry to go on a 10-2 run

to get within 10 with 4 minutes remaining. A dunk by Andre Iguodala got them within eight with about 2 minutes left, but Harden answered with a 3-pointer to shut the door.

Curry was injured after he jumped in the air as Trevor Ariza was about to go up for a shot. Ariza saw him and stopped abruptly, causing Curry to be upended in midair

when he crashed into Ariza's shoulder. His head hit the court and it propelled him up and back onto the floor, where he remained for several minutes.

Curry looked dazed as he was attended to before slowly getting up and walking off the court.

"I saw him kind of flip over ... Ariza," Golden State coach

Steve Kerr said. "Obviously that's always scary."

Ariza didn't realize who it was that sailed over him until the play was over.

"I was just trying to pump fake and get somebody off their feet," Ariza said. "I didn't know that he flipped over ... it wasn't intentional or anything like that."

Curry was called for a foul

on the play and Ariza made both shots to extend Houston's lead to 57-36 with about six minutes until halftime.

Thompson picked up the slack with Curry out, hitting four 3-pointers in a 23-9 run that got the Warriors within 66-59 with about 30 seconds left in the first half. But Jason Terry hit a 3 as the shot clock expired to put Houston up 69-59 at halftime.

The Rockets led by nine when Curry re-entered the game midway through the third quarter. He shot an air-ball on his first shot after returning and his second try was blocked by Terrence Jones.

The Rockets jumped out to a 12-0 lead thanks to eight points by Josh Smith and five straight missed shots by the Warriors to start the game. Smith's hot shooting continued throughout the quarter and he made all five shots, including three 3-pointers, he attempted in the period.

The Rockets made 17 of 22 shots overall in the quarter and were an astounding 8 of 9 from 3-point range to lead 45-22 entering the second. Houston's 45 points tied a franchise record for points in a quarter in the playoffs that had stood since 1980.

SIDEBAR

LeBron, Cavaliers limping their way toward NBA Finals

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James hurts everywhere, the King of Pain.

One win from taking the Cavaliers back to the NBA Finals, and one step closer to a title he covets more than any other, James leaned against a padded wall on Monday and hardly resembled basketball's most undeniable force.

"I'm feeling all right," he said, forcing a smile that showed he wasn't being entirely truthful. "I've been better, but I've been worse. I think I've been worse."

James moved slowly and not with his usual grace one day after his brilliant performance in Game 3 lifted Cleveland to a 114-111 win over the Atlanta Hawks in overtime, moving the Cavs within a victory of their first Finals appearance since 2007.

James wore a sleeve on his right calf, which cramped so severely he asked to be taken out Sunday night before reconsidering. Instead, he pushed through the pain and delivered 37 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists—all after an 0-for-10 shooting start—to help the Cavs take a 3-0 series lead.

He's battered, not beaten. James isn't going to let anything stop him. Not now. Not this close to his fifth straight Finals or a championship.

"When you want to win, you've got to sacrifice your body feeling good," he said. "That's just what it's about."

With a win on Tuesday night, the Cavs can clinch the Eastern Conference title and get some rest before a Finals matchup presumably against Golden State, which leads Houston 3-0 heading into Monday's Game 4. James has been down this path before, but never one so bumpy.

Cleveland's season has been strewn with obstacles: extreme expectations, chemistry issues, trades and injuries, including ones in the postseason to forward Kevin Love and All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving, who has missed the past two games with an injured left knee. James has never been on a team that's had to surmount as much.

Before the season began, James predicted this—molding a new team into a title contender—would be the greatest challenge of his career.

"I felt it would be, and it is,"

he said.

The Cavs need one more win over the rising Hawks, who showed resiliency in Game 3 by overcoming a 10-point deficit in the fourth when they appeared done. One play here, one there and Atlanta wouldn't be in a 3-0 hole that no team in league history has been able to climb from.

Despite overwhelming odds, the Hawks won't quit.

"No matter what happens, we're still going to be confident," forward Paul Millsap said. "We believe in our team. We believe in the guys that we have. We feel like we can do something special, whether this year, next year, whatever. We're going to stick to this. It's not over 'til it's over."

For James, the only ending he can envision is winning his third title and ending Cleveland's 51-year championship drought.

"It's been my goal since I got back here, not only to get back, but to win, win the whole thing," he said. "That's my goal. It's part of my drive. That's what it's about."

There are some other subplots heading into Game 4:

IRVING UPDATE

While his teammates got treatment and relaxed after a draining game, Irving went through another vigorous workout as Cleveland's coaching staff and medical team kept a close eye on him.

Cavs coach David Blatt said Irving remains a game-time decision for Tuesday and the team's lead in the series has no bearing on whether he'll play.

"We need Kyrie on the court, and we're not really thinking about resting him as much as we're thinking about him being healthy to play basketball," Blatt said. "We need him on the court, whether we're up 1-0 or 2-1 or 3-0."

SILENT TREATMENT

After making strong inferences they felt Cavs guard Matthew Dellavedova plays dirty, the Hawks were quiet about the subject.

The scrappy Dellavedova got involved in a loose-ball scramble that ended with Atlanta forward Al Horford hitting him with an elbow and being ejected. Following Game 3, Horford said Dellavedova has "gotta learn" to play with more restraint.

Earlier in the series, Dellavedova injured Kyle Korver when he dived on the floor and rolled up on the Atlanta guard's ankle. Korver is out for the rest of the playoffs.

Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer was careful with his words about Horford's ejection.

"The officials in our league have a difficult job," he said. "We obviously see it a little differently. But that's part of the game and part of those difficult situations. We're moving forward."

KING'S ENDORSEMENT

Forward Tristan Thompson's value to the Cavs grows daily. With Love out, he's playing more and the four-year veteran, who will be a free agent this summer, has been almost unstoppable on the boards.

"Tristan should probably be a Cavalier for his whole career," James said. "There's no reason why he shouldn't. This guy is 24 years old. He's played in 340-plus straight games, and he's gotten better every single season. It's almost like what more can you ask out of a guy even though we ask for more out of him?"

Yankees bounce back, rout Royals, 14-1



NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Gardner, Brian McCann and Chase Headley homered during an eight-run first inning and the New York Yankees quickly erased the memory of a lost weekend, romping past the AL Central-leading Kansas City Royals 14-1 Monday.

Stephen Drew added another three-run homer off a favorite foil of the Yankees, Jeremy Guthrie (4-3), before the team made an out in the second.

Slade Heathcott hit his first major league homer in the seventh as New York, coming off a sweep by Texas, snapped a six-game skid. The Yankees won for just the second time in 12 games, beating the team that began the day with the best record in the majors.

Nathan Eovaldi (4-1) pitched with runners on in all but two of his seven-plus innings. Working on five days' rest, he allowed eight hits and a run.

Cardinals 3, Diamondbacks 2, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Jhonny Peralta hit a game-ending homer in the 10th inning, lifting St. Louis to a victory Arizona.

Peralta's leadoff drive to left on a 1-2 pitch from J.C. Ramirez (1-1) was his fourth career game-winning homer. The Cardinals improved to 4-1 in five extra-inning home games in May, including a sweep against the Pirates at the beginning of the month.

Mark Trumbo hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth for Arizona, but the Diamondbacks stranded five the last two innings. The Cardinals wasted two hits to open the ninth when Ramirez struck out Matt Carpenter, Matt Holliday and Matt Adams.

Carlos Martinez matched his career high with eight strikeouts in seven scoreless innings for St. Louis, which got an RBI apiece from Matt Adams and Jason Heyward. Trevor Rosenthal (1-0) retired Michael Owings and Tuffy Gosewisch with the bases loaded to end the 10th.

Dodgers 6, Braves 3

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier, Alex Guerrero and Jimmy Rollins each homered in the eighth inning, rallying Los Angeles to a victory over Atlanta.

Ethier got things started, homering to snap a 2-all tie against Nick Masset (0-1). Ethier's bases-loaded walk in the first drove in the Dodgers' initial run.

Pinch-hitter Guerrero sent a 3-1 pitch into the left-field pavilion, scoring A.J. Ellis, who walked, to make it 5-2. With two outs, Rollins homered for a 6-2 lead.

It was the Dodgers' most runs scored since getting six on May 15 against Colorado. They lead

the majors with 60 homers.

Adam Liberatore (1-0) got the victory, tossing 11 pitches. Kenley Jansen got three outs in the ninth for his fourth save.

Angels 4, Padres 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Albert Pujols hit a two-out, broken-bat single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, giving Los Angeles a walk-off win over San Diego.

Kevin Quackenbush (1-1) gave up a one-out walk to Marc Krauss and No. 9 hitter Johnny Giavotella followed with a single up the middle that sent pinch-runner Collin Cowgill to third.

Closer Craig Kimbrel came in and struck out Erick Aybar. But Pujols slapped a 1-0 pitch through the left side of the infield after an intentional walk to reigning AL MVP Mike Trout.

Joe Smith (1-1) pitched two innings for the victory.

Jered Weaver was charged with a run and six hits in 6 2-3 innings. He was pulled by manager Mike Scioscia after 104 pitches with a 3-0 lead—which was promptly squandered by rookie Jose Alvarez.

Nationals 2, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth, Tanner Roark pitched five effective innings and Washington beat Chicago.

Denard Span also homered for Washington, which has won eight of nine.

Making his first start of the season in place of the injured Doug Fister, Roark (1-2) allowed rookie Kris Bryant's sixth home run and struck out three. Four relievers combined for four innings of two-hit ball, with Drew Storen working the ninth for his NL-best 15th save in 16 attempts—closing out the five-hitter.

Cubs left-hander Tsuyoshi Wada allowed one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings in his second start since being recalled from Triple-A Iowa. Justin Grimm (1-1) relieved Wada and yielded Ramos' two-out drive to right.

Giants 8, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Milwaukee won a challenge after Khris Davis was called out for missing the plate on a home run trot, but Hunter Pence and San Francisco wound up with the win.

Davis hit a pair of solo homers, including one that led to a bizarre sequence.

In the first inning, he pointed in the crowd in celebration and skipped across the plate. It appeared to both umpire Will Little and Giants catcher Andrew Susac that Davis' right foot failed to touch down on the dish, and he was ruled out.

Brewers manager Craig Counsell contested the call and after a replay review that took several minutes, the home run counted. Davis stomped firmly



AP
Kansas City Royals right fielder Paulo Orlando (16) leaps but can't catch a three-run home run ball hit by New York Yankees Brian McCann during the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 25, 2015, in New York.

season.

Hahn (2-4) struck out five and walked one in his stellar 112-pitch performance. The right-hander pitched around three errors, but allowed only one runner to get to scoring position. He had never gone further than seven innings.

Max Muncy and Sam Fuld hit RBI doubles in the decisive four-run sixth inning.

Rockies 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Cincinnati Reds lost a ninth straight game as Nolan Arenado homered, had three hits and drove in the tie-breaking run with a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning off Aroldis Chapman that gave Colorado the victory.

This is the Reds' longest losing streak since they dropped 11 straight in June 1998 under manager Jack McKeon.

Arenado had a pair of singles and a solo homer off Reds starter Jason Marquis. He then helped the Rockies pull it out against Chapman (2-3), who came in for the ninth.

Charlie Blackmon opened with a walk and took third on D.J. Lemahieu's single. Blackmon scored easily on Arenado's fly to center fielder Billy Hamilton, whose throw was off-target.

Mariners 4, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Robinson Cano drove in two runs, Roenis Elias threw six solid innings and Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

Seattle took a 2-0 lead in the first on RBI singles by Cano and Nelson Cruz. Cano entered the game hitless in his previous 12 at-bats. He made it 3-1 on a run-scoring single in the eighth.

Elias (2-1) gave up one run and six hits. Mark Lowe, Carson Smith and Fernando Rodney, who pitched the ninth for his 13th save, completed an eight-hitter.

Seattle went up 4-1 in the ninth on Mike Zunino's solo homer.

Blue Jay 5, White Sox 0

In Toronto, Drew Hutchison pitched a four-hitter, Justin Smoak and Josh Donaldson homered and Toronto beat Chicago.

Hutchison (4-1) allowed four singles, walked none and struck out eight while throwing just 96 pitches in his second career shutout. The other came at Texas on May 16, 2014.

Smoak hit a two-run homer in the first and Donaldson had a solo drive in the second as the Blue Jays won consecutive games for the first time since a three-game streak from May 6-9.

in the middle of the plate after homering in the third.

Pence's two-run double capped a seven-run rally in the sixth. Center fielder Carlos Gomez made two errors in the inning.

Orioles 4, Astros 3

In Baltimore, Caleb Joseph and Steve Pearce hit two-run homers off Dallas Keuchel, and Baltimore dealt the left-hander his first loss in a victory over Houston.

Keuchel (6-1) came in with a 1.67 ERA and had won three straight starts. He allowed just one home run in nine appearances this season before Joseph connected in the second inning and Pearce went deep in the seventh.

Keuchel allowed six hits, struck out three and walked one over eight innings in his first complete game of 2015 and seventh of his career.

George Springer had a season-high three hits and a homer for the Astros, who stranded seven and went 1 for 11 with runners in scoring position.

Rangers 10, Indians 8

In Cleveland, Josh Hamilton was hitless in his return to the majors, but reached on a key error that sent Texas over Cleveland for a sixth straight win.

Hamilton, slowed this season by shoulder surgery, was 0 for 3 with two strikeouts and a walk, and scored a run.

The 2010 AL MVP came up with runners on first and second and two outs in the seventh inning with the score 8-all. He hit an easy tapper back to pitcher Zach McAllister, whose throw was well over the head of first baseman Carlos Santana for a two-base error.

Hamilton was traded from the Angels back to Texas in late April.

The Indians had won six in a row.

Mets 6, Phillies 3

In New York, Wilmer Flores hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Justin De Fratus in the sixth inning to help Bartolo Colon win a day after his 42nd birthday, and New York beat Philadelphia to stop a three-game losing streak.

With the score 3-all, Daniel Murphy led off the sixth with a single off Elvis Araujo (1-1), De Fratus walked Michael Cuddyer and Flores homered off the original 16-foot left-field wall, over the 8-foot blue fence erected in front of it for the 2012 season.

Twins 7, Red Sox 2

In Minneapolis, Ricky Nolasco struck out five in 7-plus innings and Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer to lead surging Minnesota to a victory over Boston.

Nolasco (5-1) gave up two runs on seven hits to win his fifth straight start since coming off the disabled list.

The Twins got 16 hits to pick up their AL-leading 16th win in May. After a 1-6 start the Twins (26-18) are now just two games behind first-place Kansas City in the AL Central.

Joe Kelly (1-4) lasted just 1 2-3 innings. He gave up seven runs on eight hits in a performance that sapped any sense of momentum the Red Sox had after picking up two straight wins over the Angels.

Pirates 4, Marlins 2

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton tossed seven strong innings in his return from hip surgery and Pittsburgh ran its winning streak to four straight with a victory over Miami.

Morton (1-0) gave up two runs on eight hits, striking out three with no walks.

The 32-year-old's sinker produced 18 groundball outs in his first start since the end of an injury plagued 2014. Francisco Cervelli had two hits, including a three-run homer, for the Pirates. Pedro Alvarez added his ninth homer of the season for Pittsburgh, which moved back to .500 (22-22). Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

Athletics 4, Tigers 0

In Oakland, Calif., Jesse Hahn pitched a four-hitter for his first career complete game, and Oakland beat Detroit for its first three-game winning streak this

Official notes high-level tennis games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oceania Tennis Federation executive director and International Tennis Federation referee Patrick O'Rourke noticed the high standard of games in last week's 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

"For a Grade 5 tournament like this, it was great to see a lot of high quality games. The players who joined the tour-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Carol Lee returns to Japan's Ayumi Hirata during their singles game in the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships last week at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

nament were not ranked high internationally, but their talents can be compared to those who have high rankings," said O'Rourke, who led the awarding of plaques to the girls and boys singles and doubles champions of the ITF Juniors event last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Japan swept the six-day competition with Yuki Naito and Rimepi Kawakami winning the girls and boys singles event and Sakura Hondo and Ayano Shimizu and Tomohiro Masabayashi and Kento Yamada topping the doubles contest.

"Though the Japanese won all the events, they were not the only ones who played very well in this tournament. We also saw some fantastic talents from Hong Kong and Singapore," O'Rourke said.

Visiting players were so talented that there were several matches decided in super tiebreakers, including the two semis matches and finale in the boys doubles.

"Even the local players showed some quality games despite getting terrible draws," added O'Rourke, who facilitated the competition with the help of wife Linda and volunteers from Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

The official picked Mikayla Lopez and Carol Lee among the list of CNMI players who held their own against the visiting athletes.

"Mikayla had her best performance this year, while Carol played well even though she

battled the top seeds both in the singles and doubles. I think if CNMI players had better draws, they would have made it to the next round," O'Rourke said.

Lopez marched into the semifinals of the singles event and advanced to the quarterfinals in the doubles, while Lee was eliminated right in the first round of both events. The 13-year-old Lee was pitted against the No. 1 ranked Ayumi Hirata of Japan and forced a tiebreak in the first set before losing the match, 7-6 (3), 6-2. In the doubles, Lee and partner Casey Cummings fell to the second-seeded pair of Hirata and Nagomi Higashitani, 1-6, 2-6.

"With unlucky draws like that, it is unlikely that Carol will progress. But she was able to send the first set to a tiebreak and that's huge considering she was up against the top-ranked player. Our No. 1 and 2 boys (Luther Lizama and Colin Ramsey) also faced the Top 2 seeds in the first round. They could have beaten other players if they were not given tough assignments in the first round," CNMI coach Jeff Race said, agreeing with O'Rourke's observation about the draws.

"However, overall our players did well. They were able to play against good players, gauge the level they are into and see what it would take to beat these players in future tournaments," Race added.

Meanwhile, Race would like to thank all the supporters of last week's competition, particularly the title sponsor IT&E. Other supporters of the ITF Juniors event were Marianas Visitors Authority, Coca-Cola/Powerade, Hertz Rent A Car, Deepstar Submarine, TSL Foundation, and OTF.

battled for third place with the former winning, 4-1. Guam, which completed Group A, dropped all its three matches, and was the lone team that failed to score in last week's competition.

Kintaro of Saipan Southern High School; and Tinian Junior Senior High School's Elvin Borja, Dachelbai Cruz, and Steven Mahilum are the members of the boys' team.

Eleven of the 18 players from the girls squad are from MHS led by Gechig, Janlane Imperial, Marcy Ann Ermitanio, Noemy Pamintuan, Jenny Lee, Russell Javan, Beryl Kohnen, Sabrina Pangelinan, Emily Jones, Negahr Rastguir, and Zarinae Sapong.

SIS' Jennifer Tan, Adele Hudkins, and Julia Ishikawa, SSSHS' Narleen Siech and Serafina Rogoyawa, GCA's Danica Canedo, and Mt. Carmel's Claire Calage are the other members of the girls team.

Twin wins for Ruselle

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ruselle Zapanta missed the May Masters crown, but did not go home empty handed as he won two other events the 33rd CNMI May Masters Tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta, who finished third in the May Masters contest behind champion Robert Talavera and runner-up Percy Omechelang, ruled the All Events and was part of the quartet that topped the team competition. Zapanta posted 588 in the singles, 545 in doubles, and 637 in the team event to collect 1,770 pinfalls, just 18 pins ahead of runner-up Ador Dimaano (1,752). Rusty Musca rounded out the Top 3 after logging 1,719.

In the team event, Ruselle joined forces with younger brother Raphael, Simon Manacop, and Raymond Angeles in besting five other squads. The champion foursome totaled 2,280 pinfalls with Ruselle top-scoring for the team with his 637 built from 233 and 226

pinfalls in Games 1 and 3 and 178 in Game 2. Raphael had the second best three-game total of 626 (197, 224, and 205), while Manacop added 533 (183, 166, and 184), and Angeles contributed 484 (183, 157, 144).

Ruselle and company won by 166 pins against the team of Alex Castro, Raul Dumapit, Percy Omechelang and Robert Talavera, who combined for 2,134. Talavera was the best scorer on the runner-up squad with his 609 (212, 201, and 196), followed by Dumapit (541), Omechelang (514), and Castro (470). Lito Teodoro (457), Edgar Abalos (496), Ador Dimaano (603) and Musca (552) completed the Top 3 after compiling 2,108 pinfalls. The first three finishers received \$360, \$200, and \$100, respectively.

Musca and Dimaano also partnered in the doubles events and prevailed against eight other duos. Musca had 195 and 186 in the first two games and closed out strong (201 in Game 3) for his 582, while Dimaano chipped in 562 pinfalls (170,

202, and 190) for a 6-pin win against the pair of Talavera and Angeles, who tallied similar three-game scores of 569. Joe Sablan (529) and Raul Dumapit (587) totaled 1,116 to join Musca and Dimaano and Angeles and Talavera in the Top 3.

Meanwhile, despite falling short in his bid in the May Masters, doubles, and All Events, Omechelang still went home with a trophy as he won the singles contest.

He tallied 206, 158, and 235 in the three games in the singles to collect 599 pinfalls and beat Dimaano and Ruselle Zapanta, who were tied for second and third after registering 588 pinfalls each.

Dimaano settled for a deadlock with Zapanta despite posting the best single game score (247 in Game 1). He had 162 in Game 2 to stay in the lead, but lost the upper hand after knocking down only 179 pins in Game 3. Zapanta, on the other hand, made up for his 182 in Game 1 with 210 and 196 pinfalls in the last two games to force a stand-off with Dimaano and split the \$140 cash prize. Omechelang went home with \$120 aside from the championship trophy.



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and Lia'mwar Rangamar were the other members of that 4x100m relay team.

"The competition level in the Area championship is much higher compared to that of the Micronesian Games. There were more athletes from a wid-

er variety of places," she said.

Personally, Sapong said that she was not satisfied with her performance. "I believe I could have done better. One of the things that I could improve on would be my take off on the starting blocks and my reaction time."

She finished 13th in the girls 100m and 200m runs with times of 13.91 and 28.97 seconds, re-

spectively.

Meeting other veteran athletes in the Oceania region also gave her the chance to learn new things that would help her with her training.

"I've learned more about the other athletes in the Oceania Area and the type of workouts they incorporated into their training."

CNMI

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trimmed down the choices before coming up with the final 16 players for the boys and 18 for the girls," she added.

Both teams had their first players meeting on May 1 and held practices in between playing in the ongoing Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association Coed Indoor Tournament.

"We explained to them their duties and responsibilities of being an All-Star team member. The boys team, for example, must earn their spot and they showed that in our practices," said Wylie.

"What we did is we established a point system where

they earn points depending on the attitude and commitment they show during practice sessions, fundraisers, and other activities of NMIVA. They keep track of their own points."

That point system earned Knohlynn Gechig, a member of the CNMI girls All-Star team, last month's Northern Marianas Sports Association's Female Student Athlete of the Month.

Gechig, who is part of the girls All-Star team that will be competing in a tournament in Yap set from July 18 to 31, collected 22 points from NMIVA after she showed her leadership skills on and off the court.

NMIVA gives eligibility points to all players based on attending practices, participating in fun-

draising events, and playing in tournaments for them to remain active and part of the team.

Wylie added that she was also impressed on the hustle and attitude shown by the boys team during practices. "They are all hard workers."

The boys team, which held a carwash fundraising activity a few weeks ago, will be holding their final practice session tonight from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium before leaving for Guam early Thursday morning.

Their current fundraising activity is called "Athletes 4 Hire" where the athletes are available to do jobs like babysitting, house work or cleaning, yard work, and tutoring. All money

BORJA

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China also eased past South Korea, 4-1, in the other Final Four pairing. Japan and South Korea, which were in Group A,

collected will go directly to their fundraising account.

The girls team will have a separate tournament in Guam in October and both teams will travel to Yap in another event from July 18 to 31.

Codie Sayles and TJSHS' Jonathan San Nicolas join Wylie on the coaching staff.

Grace Christian Academy's Jonathan Libut and William Hinson; Won Woo Choi, Jae Hyun Lee, and Toshio Takayama of Marianas Baptist Academy; Marianas High School's Riczi Cano and Karlo De Leon; Quinn Amog and Seokjun Yun of Mt. Carmel School; Saipan International School's William Fong and Andrew Johnson; Frederick Encabo and James

Latte Sparts are virtual champs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Jokers Latte Sparts are the virtual champions in the Thursday B Fanihi division of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2015 season.

Not even a 7-8 loss to the Route 33 MixbloodShooters III last week could prevent their title bid as they hold a 138-57 record for a 16-game edge over closest pursuer Sands-Alamo Car Rental's 122-73 slate.

The Sand Juvy 80 Proofers and the MixbloodShooters are locked in a battle for third place with the former holding on to a 112-83 mark against the latter's 111-84 card.

The Oleai Team Fearless (69-126) and Sands-Alamo both pulled off similar 8-7 wins over sister teams Sand Juvy Sunrisers (68-127) and 80 Proofers, while the Jokers Preba Darts (98-97) trounced the VFW Warriors (62-133).

The Latte Sparts will close out their campaign on Thursday, May 28, when they visit the Sands-Alamo, while the 80 Proofers take on the Sunrisers, and the Preba Darts host Team Fearless. The MixbloodShooters III battle the Warriors in the final match. The results of the rest of the matches last week are as follows:

Masters

- Destroyers 11, Dartin' Chelus 6
- Summit 13, Scratch 'N' Sniff 4
- Shoot Balut 15, Pythons 2

A Division

- Mafia 15, No Fear 2
- Warriors 9, Huntlaw 8
- Darry 12, Proofers 5
- Predators 9, Sakude 8
- Voyagers 12, Snipers 3

Ladies

- Atarashi Boyz 9, Like It Or Not 6
- Vicious Darters 9, Kitty Kats 6
- Pasawayz 12, Try Luck 3

Tuesday B

- Titans 11, Dabarkads 4
- Serial Killaz 11, Nagupu 4
- Pasaways 12, Dartaholics 3

Flame Tree

- Ridin' Darry 10, No Fear 5
- Serial Killaz 11, Nagupu 4
- Snipers 10, Real Deal 5
- Kyodai 8, One Shot 7

Kingfisher C

- Sapartans 11, Dart Knight 4
- Chagi Fan 10, Hafa Mas 5
- High Flyers 9, Sea-Ricks 6
- Jump It 8, Darty Flight 7
- Tokers 15, Blue Koi 0

MISO Boys High School Soccer League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan International School players and coach Steven Beyer, back row right, pose for a group photo after beating Marianas High School in the finals of the 2014-2015 MISO Boys High School Soccer League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Saipan International School seniors show their championship trophy.



Marianas High School's Joel Fruit (20) is swamped by Saipan International School defenders.



Saipan International School's Bob Kim goes up for a header against Marianas High School's Joel Fruit.



Marianas High School goalie Christopher Aninzo waits for the shot of Saipan International School's Jehn Joyner.



Saipan International School's Kennedy Izuka uses his right foot to stop the ball.



Saipan International School's Jehn Joyner, left, celebrates with his teammate after scoring a header



A Saipan International School player uses his knee to receive a pass.



Saipan International School's Jehn Joyner is up against two Marianas High School defenders.



A Marianas High School player, left, gets away from his Saipan International School defender.



**Harden helps
Rockets stay
alive, beat
Warriors, 128-115**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



JON PEREZ
Zarinae Sapong competes in the 4x100 meter relay in last Saturday's Public School System/McDonald's All-School Championship at the Hopwood Junior High School field.

Learning experience for Miller, Sapong

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2015 Oceania Athletics Association Area Championship served as a learning experience for youngsters Evan Miller and Zarinae Sapong.

Miller and Sapong were part of a six-member Team CNMI, which was coached by Ron Olopai that competed in the area championship held early this month at Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

Rachel Dominique Abrams, Beouch Ogumoro Ngirchongor, Gerald Castillo, and Donavin Ada, who won bronze in boys javelin throw, were the other Team CNMI members.

Miller said that he would now take practice more seriously since he could have done better if he gave more time in training.

"I could say that I performed better in the 200m race compared in the 100m. It's still something that I need to work on," said Miller, who posted personal best times of 12.73 seconds (16th) and 25.74 seconds (17th) in the 100m and 200m sprints, respectively.

Though his opponents in Cairns overwhelmed him, Miller is optimistic with his budding athletics career.

"Those competing in Oceania are all huge and fast. I was shocked but I think I'll match up to them the next time," said Miller, who was into basketball before being recruited by coach-

ning ability in basketball.

"I think I'll be sticking to both sports 'cause track really improved me in my finish to the rim. I can outrun my defender and beat him to the basket," he added.

"Now, I have to work on my cycling when I run. My stamina and probably my shotput throw too. In everything else, I think I'm good to go."



Sapong, who was part of the 4 x 100m relay silver-medal winning Team CNMI in last year's Pohnpei Micronesia Games, competed in her second Oceania championship after seeing action when the Cook Islands hosted the event last year in Rarotonga.

Abrams, Friendly Joy Pena,

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Borja gives CNMI lone goal in Beijing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team avoided a shutout in the AFC U14 Girls Regional

Championships (East) 2015 after scoring one goal in its loss to Hong Kong last Thursday at the National Football Training Centre in Beijing, China.

Starting forward Guinevere

Borja handed the Commonwealth its lone goal in the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned competition, finding the back of the net with only seven minutes left



in the match. Hong Kong recorded two goals in the first half and added one more in the second, but failed to blank the CNMI crew, thanks to Borja's shot in the closing minutes of the game.

"Though we gave up two goals in the first half, the CNMI had the most possessions in the second half and our girls fought until the end," team manager Angie Ito said in a message posted on the squad's unofficial website.

Joining Borja on the Commonwealth's Starting 11 were goalie Toremy Diaz, Jerlyn Castillo, Princess Alcantara, Samantha Manacop, Lyka and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI U14 Girls National Team pose for a group photo before playing against Hong Kong in their last game in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships (East) 2015 last Thursday at the National Football Training Centre in Beijing, China.

Angelica Sally, Katrina Costales, Gillian Villagomez, Ericka Santiago, and Anela Dueñas. Jobelle Tabuena was the only substitute in the Chi Ming Tang-coached team's last game in Group B.

The three goals Hong Kong hit were the least the CNMI team allowed in the tournament. The Commonwealth bets, who returned to Saipan early Sunday morning, gave up 15 to host China and 17 to North Korea.

North Korea went on to clinch the East championship after downing China last Saturday, 2-0. Choe Kum-ok scored the first goal for the eventual champion in the 54th minute, while Pang Un-sim nailed the other one off a penalty kick in the 70th.

North Korea marched into the finals after shutting down Japan in the semis, 3-0, while

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CNMI indoor v-ball teams work their way to earn spot

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Skills alone were not the basis for the selection of the CNMI Under-19 boys and girls All-Star volleyball teams, as players need to work their way in order to secure their spot.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association youth development head of indoor programs Dary Wylie said that before naming the final composition

of the team all coaches under the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization held a meeting to nominate two of their "most valuable players."

"All MISO coaches met and nominated their own two MVPs and one alternate. Then we had a pool of 20 players both in the boys and girls squads," said Wylie.

"We then deliberated and

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JON PEREZ

Marianas High School's Sabrina Pangelinan sets up the ball during their finals match against Saipan International School in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball league last February. Pangelinan is one of the players selected for the CNMI Under-19 girls All-Star team.